SEE WHAT'S NEW... CHECK OUT OUR LATEST OFFER ON PAGE 38 SHOPPERS DRUG MART

GETTING BACK TO THE BOOKS

LIBRARY WORKERS' UNION REACHES TENTATIVE AGREEMENT WITH CITY, POTENTIALLY ENDING STRIKE PAGE 4

TORONTO metro®

Thursday, March 29, 2012

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Toronto the brat?

Tale of two cities. Mississauga is the 'easy child' when it comes to transit, and it stands to score major funding. But don't get us started on Toronto

In the push to win approval for provincial transit money, Mississauga — wholeheartedly behind LRTs — is the straight-A student at the front of the class, while Toronto is the trouble-maker at the back.

That's how one Mississauga councillor described it Wednesday as city council members, including Mayor Hazel McCallion, took turns pointing out that Toronto council's recent battle over its transit expansion might be the best thing for Mississauga.

"I think the turmoil in Toronto regarding transit plays right into our hands," Councillor Nando Iannicca said. "It shows the province that the mayor in Mississauga plays ball. We've sold our community on light transit."

Iannicca and council are behind Mississauga's plan to build a $1.3-billion LRT line from the southern end of Hurontario Street north into Brampton.

And unlike Toronto, Mississauga councillors are prepared to pay with tax revenues and fees from new development and even a tax levy or property-tax increase. They want the province to cover one-third of the cost, the federal government another third and the city will pick up the rest.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

YOUNG POLITICIANS take off the gloves

Liberal MP Justin Trudeau and Conservative Senator Patrick Brazeau step up for their weigh-in on Wednesday in Ottawa for a charity boxing match. The pair meets on Saturday night to raise money for cancer research. For more on the politicians and their thoughts on young people in politics, see pages 28-29.

All white or floral brights?

It's up to you. From London to Milan, women are tossing away the fashion mags and wearing what they like PAGE 39

Coin toss

Brinks truck smashes into a rock face in Northern Ontario, sending two to hospital and spilling millions of loonies and toonies on the highway PAGE 12

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The Ford follies, 1: Rob makes a 'gracious' apology

Our 'magnanimous' mayor. Phone-number flap starts with Josh Matlow's complaint ... and ends with one happy councillor

In a rare admission of error, Mayor Rob Ford has — yes — apologized.

He said sorry for encouraging residents who support his transit vision to call the phone number of the mayor's office to find out how to run in the next city election.

Coun. Josh Matlow had argued that Ford's remarks on his radio show Sunday breached the city's code of conduct. It prohibits the use of city resources for election-related purposes.

Ford called Matlow on Tuesday to apologize, Matlow said. Ford also released a statement, saying: "It was my intent to provide my direct personal line."

Matlow, the former host of the NEWSTALK 1010 show, said he considers the matter closed.

"He was very gracious and magnanimous," Matlow said.

"He unreservedly apologized. And demonstrated that he understood that complying with our code of conduct is absolute."

Matlow added: "It was very encouraging. I really appreciate the maturity that the mayor demonstrated."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Brotherly love?

Rob Ford, brother Doug and Coun. Josh Matlow are the cast of characters in the latest mayoral dust-up.

- **Oh, Doug.** Before the mayor released his statement, Coun. Doug Ford, who co-hosts the radio show, lashed out at Matlow.
- **Mad.** "Josh Matlow is ticked off because we took his radio station," Doug Ford told reporters.

Rob Ford, pictured in NEWSTALK 1010's studios, set the airwaves a-quivering when he gave out the phone number of the mayor's office instead of his personal number. RICK MADONIK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Ford follies, 2: That audit goes on

Mayor Rob Ford's fight against a city-ordered audit of his campaign expenses will proceed in April.

A judge has denied a request from Ford's lawyer that could have delayed the hearing to the end of the year or 2013.

"The Ford matter, in my mind, should proceed as scheduled," Justice Richard D. Schneider of the Ontario Court of Justice said Wednesday in a verbal ruling.

Last May, the city's compliance audit committee ordered the audit after considering a complaint from two residents.

They alleged that Ford breached the Municipal Elections Act during the 2010 campaign.

They questioned $77,000 in campaign expenses paid by Ford's family company, Doug Ford Holdings Inc.

The campaign repaid that amount a year later with no interest.

Provincial law says candidates can only borrow from banks or other lending institutions, and cannot take corporate donations.

Arguing the family firm was merely a "supplier," Ford asked the courts to quash the audit order.

His lawyer, Tom Barlow, failed last month to convince the judge to make the three-day appeal, scheduled to start April 16, a chance to have fresh look at all evidence rather than the merits of the committee decision.

Schneider's order limiting the appeal's scope also applied to failed council candidate Peter Li Preti, who is in court fighting an audit order of his expenses.

Li Preti is now appealing Schneider's decision to Superior Court.

On Wednesday, Barlow told the judge that, since Li Preti will name Ford as a "respondent" in that appeal, Ford's hearing should wait until after it is heard.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Risk of removal

Call it a case of truth and consequences.

- **THE CONSEQUENCES.** If an audit found the mayor breached the Municipal Elections Act, and he was later convicted in court, penalties could include removal from office.
- **THE LIMITS.** Time limitations in the Municipal Elections Act dictate that any prosecution would have to start by Dec. 1, 2014.

1 NEWS

Mobile news

Wondering how to dispose of your phone? Just ask it. Cities across the country are using smartphone apps to ease the process of tech recycling. Scan the code for the story.

On the web

Lunch is for disco dancing

Some workers in Sweden have found an offbeat way to spend their lunch hour. Actually, on-beat is more like it. Disco lights, sweaty bodies and pulsating beats are all on the menu during the lunch-time dance parties that started in Stockholm and are spreading across Europe. Watch at metronews.ca/video

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Education. 'Smart' idea brings together students and all their gadgets

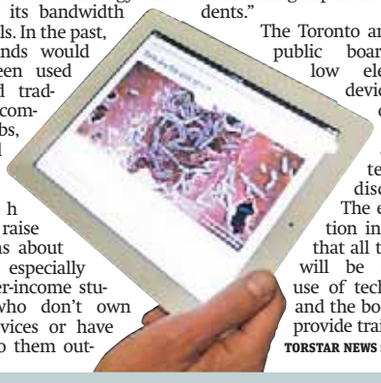
It's called BYOD — bring your own device.

Peel Region's 140,000 public school students are being encouraged to bring their smartphones, iPads, tablets and laptop computers to class in what the board calls its "21st century" learning plan.

"The days when kids go into the computer lab for an hour and that's their technology for the day — those days are over," said Brian Woodland, director of communications for the Peel District School Board.

"There's a need to move from an investment in a computer lab to technology that's more portable," he said, as well as programs that give kids access to their work after school hours.

Trustees voted this week to spend $7 million, in part to add wireless technology and increase its bandwidth in schools. In the past, such funds would have been used to build traditional computer labs, said Woodland.



Such plans raise questions about equity, especially for lower-income students who don't own such devices or have access to them outside of school — a growing issue that has been dubbed the "app gap."

But the Peel board plans to purchase tablets or the like, to "ensure equity of access to technology for all students through classroom computers and tablets in schools."

Peel is among the first to pass such an ambitious plan, said Catherine Fife, president of the Ontario Public School Boards' Association.

"You can't fight it," she said of technology being used in the classroom. "That's why this decision is pivotal; other school boards will be watching.

"Fighting how this generation learns is not a good use of time of teachers or administrators. Instead of chasing after them, you just embed it into the learning experience of students."

The Toronto and York public boards allow electronic devices in classrooms at the teacher's discretion. The expectation in Peel is that all teachers will be making use of technology and the board will provide training.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Medical fraud. U.S. man lied about science degree from York University

A Michigan man who lied about having a York University science degree has been charged with health-care fraud after he botched a series of patient cases.

The FBI arrested Fitzgerald Anthony Hudson, 51, on charges of lying to get a New York medical licence, misrepresenting his work history to land jobs and defrauding Medicare of $200,000 as a result of his fraudulently-obtained licence.

Hudson did indeed study behavioural science and psychology at York, but he neither graduated nor earned a degree, spokeswoman Joanne Rider said.

He attended York from 1987 to 1990, according to New York Department of Health documents.

With his fake degree and nine years of medical school, Hudson landed his N.Y. medical licence in 2007. His medicine degree is from Ross University in the West Indies.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CUPE Local 79 leader Tim Maguire speaks to media outside of the Sheraton Hotel, one of the voting locations, in Toronto on Wednesday. The union representing the majority of the City of Toronto employees took the City's final contract offer to a membership vote Wednesday. CARLOS OSORIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Many workers felt offer was better than a strike

The vote. Deal was not endorsed by the leadership of CUPE

Many City of Toronto inside workers who voted Wednesday on the city's final offer saw it as a bad bargain but possibly the best they're going to get, a union official said.

CUPE Local 79 president Tim Maguire fielded lots of questions from workers when he appeared at the three voting locations to give details, union spokesperson Cim Nunn told reporters after balloting concluded at 8 p.m. Workers voted on the offer even though it wasn't endorsed by union leadership. Results were not available at press time.

"As you can imagine, there was a lot of concern, a lot of angst, a lot of worry on the part of members," Nunn said.

"I think that for the most part, they're going to realize that this is not a good deal," he added. "You can't characterize this as a good deal, but for a lot of members, they're going to see it as the best deal they're going to get."

City officials have said they don't intend to improve its offer, affecting workers in four bargaining units.

Wednesday's vote by the city's 23,000 inside workers could result in some remaining on the job while others are locked out or go on strike.

Maguire acknowledged the possibility of a strike Wednesday afternoon as members of the local's four separating bargaining units voted on the city's "final offer" for four-year contracts.

"It's possible that one or two of the units could reject the offer" while the others accept, Maguire said.

Across the street, inside the Sheraton Centre, CUPE 79 members from various units said they would vote in favour of the offer.

Many said they voted yes to ratify the deal, in large part because they say they can't afford to strike.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

For results of the vote, visit metronews.ca/toronto

Agreement reached

Library union OK's deal

Toronto Public Library workers have reached a tentative deal with the library board, according to its union.

The workers went on strike March 19, closing all 98 branches.

CUPE spokesperson Cim Nunn said the two sides have been meeting since the strike began and reached a deal through "long, hard work."

"They'd been meeting every day, they'd been making incremental progress, and they got to the finish line. It was just day after day of negotiating," he said.

No details are being released until the 2,300 library workers vote on it Thursday.

Job security was the primary issue as of last week. The city is currently prevented from laying off permanent library employees in the event of outsourcing or technological improvements, and it wants to gain more flexibility by denying job security to many workers.

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‘Walkable’ cities are better for health: Study

Walkable City. Report shows that a lot of physical activity occurs not as recreation but as part of daily living

People hit the pavement at the intersection of Bay and Wellington in the financial district. A new report says the Torontonians who could most benefit from strolling live in the least walkable areas. CARLOS OSORIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Toronto enjoys a reputation for being a city of walkable neighbourhoods. But a landmark report for the Toronto Board of Health offers fresh evidence that residents who have the most to gain from living within strolling distance of shops and services frequently live in the city’s least walkable areas.

The Walkable City is the kind of evidence-based research that should inform how new communities are built and old ones redeveloped, says Dr. David McKeown, Toronto medical officer of health.

“This study really gets at how the shape of your neighbourhood affects how likely you are to be getting physically active,” he said.

The report focuses on utilitarian walking — the steps people take in the course of their daily business. It shows the most walkable neighbourhoods are clustered downtown and the least walkable are in postwar suburbs, many of them overlapping communities that face economic and social challenges.

A significant number of Torontonians — 74 per cent — said they would be willing to trade square footage and a bigger backyard for the convenience of walking to the local store or library. And even 46 per cent of those living outside Toronto’s municipal borders said they preferred more walkable neighbourhoods.

McKeown said the research shows that the shape of the neighbourhood can encourage people to be more active, whether or not they’re living in a walkable area.

“If people have a preference for walkable neighbourhoods, they walk more. But even people who don’t have a preference for walkable neighbourhoods walk more if they live in a walkable neighbourhood,” he said. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Health care. Study finds pay-for-performance does little for patients

As Ontario begins to rein in health-care costs, hospitals and others in the health sector will soon face increased scrutiny to ensure that scarce dollars are being spent wisely.

Some health policy experts predict the province may look at paying hospitals for good performance, rewarding those institutions that take the best care of their patients.

But a major study published Monday by the Harvard School of Public Health has found that pay-for-performance — in which hospitals are paid to improve their quality of care — does surprisingly little to improve patient outcomes.

Health policy experts in Ontario said the study provides a cautionary tale about how to set up incentive-based programs.

“This study teaches us that we haven’t really figured out the pay part and we haven’t figured out the performance part of pay-for-performance,” said Ashish Jha, associate professor of health policy and management at the Harvard School of Public Health and lead author of the study.

While surprised by the results, Jha cautioned the study should not be interpreted to mean that all pay-for-performance programs do not work.

“It just says that we have a lot of work to do figuring out what right payment schemes are and what the right performance metrics are.” TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

No difference in outcomes

- Researchers from the Harvard School of Public Health examined the largest U.S. hospital-based pay-for-performance program to see whether it made a difference in the number of patients who survived hospitalization.
- They found no difference in 30-day mortality rates between hospitals in the pay-for-performance program and a group of control hospitals that did not receive incentives.

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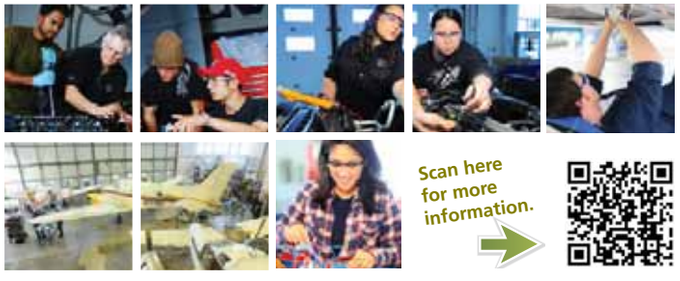

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Police dog assaulted a second time

Added protection. The Provincial Animal Welfare Act came into effect in March 2009

For just the second time in the three years since a protective law came into effect, Durham Region police have charged a man with harming a police dog.

K-9 Magnum, also injured in the first incident, received minor injuries after it was punched and kicked when police responded to a domestic incident early on March 10.

The dog, in service since 2008, is able to continue working with its handler, Det.-Const. Kevin Dunlop.

Three years ago, K-9 Magnum was assaulted with a piece of wood. The dog suffered only minor injuries and a man was charged.

The most recent case occurred in the Stevenson Road and Gibb Street area of Oshawa, where a man fled after allegedly assaulting his common-law wife. K-9 Magnum was sent to help catch the suspect, who was in a backyard. The man began punching and kicking the dog, but was eventually arrested. He suffered a dog bite to his arm.

The 39-year-old Oshawa man is charged under the Provincial Animal Welfare Act with harming a dog that works for police.

He is also charged with cruelty to animals under the Criminal Code, and several other offences.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Pooch Protocol

"They are given ample warning to surrender. The dog is used as a last resort. It's not just a loose dog."

Police spokesperson Nancy Van Rooy, who said protocols are in place when a dog is released to help apprehend a suspect.

Durham handler and police dog K-9 Magnum. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Supreme Court

Five former drug squad officers face obstruction charges

A one-time couple says Toronto drug squad officers searched their Scarborough apartment, making a mess and pocketing a safety deposit box key, and produced a warrant after the fact.

Ho Zhong Pang, 52, told prosecutor Joan Barrett that he came home from work on Feb. 18, 1998, to his Eglinton Ave. E. and Kennedy Rd. area apartment. He usually arrived between 10:30 and 11 p.m. Upon seeing his ransacked unit he asked his then-wife, Miao Fen Lin, what happened. "She told me a lot of police came."

After 15 to 20 minutes, two plainclothes officers arrived with what he later learned was a search warrant and took away a plastic grocery bag sitting by the door, Pang testified.

He later learned police had arrested his brother, Ho Bing Pang — who lived in the apartment — and charged him with drug offences.

Memo books from drug squad officers suggest the search did not begin until 10:45 p.m., when Const. Joseph Miched arrived at the apartment with a warrant and lasted until 11:30 p.m., court has heard.

Lin, 50, said three plainclothes officers carrying guns came in through her front door using a key, and searched for two hours, taking away the key to her safety deposit box without her knowledge.

The former couple was testifying at the Ontario Superior Court trial of Miched, 53, John Schertzer, 54, Steven Correia, 45, Raymond Pollard, 47, and Ned Maodus, 49.

The former drug squad officers face various charges, including attempting to obstruct justice, perjury, assault and extortion. All but Schertzer are accused of later lying about it in court.

The trial continues.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

New Tecumseth

School bus crash injures 36 students

Provincial police say 36 students were injured in a collision north of Toronto involving two school buses.

Investigators say a bus carrying 37 students was stopped at a railway crossing in New Tecumseth, when it was struck from behind by a second bus carrying 22 students.

Police say 16 students aged 15 to 17 were taken to area hospitals. One student suffered major injuries — including a possible fractured collarbone.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lake Ontario

Sailor injured in tugboat fire dies

The U.S. Coast Guard says a sailor injured in a tugboat fire on Lake Ontario has died.

Six people were aboard the U.S.-flagged Patrice McAllister when it caught fire while travelling from Toledo, Ohio, to a port in New York state early Tuesday. The boat's chief engineer, whose name isn't being released by the Coast Guard, died today in a Toronto hospital. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Settlement after 21 years not enough: Claimant

Almost 21 years after his bicycle crashed into a car, Frank Lico finally saw some justice.

But he wants more.

The 61-year-old disabled man from Hamilton, who was struck while riding his bike in August 1991, isn't happy with last week's court approval of a $270,420 insurance settlement between the provincial Public Guardian and Trustee, acting on his behalf, and a group of insurance companies.

It followed a legal odyssey that would make most hardened litigators wilt. The case had never reached trial. The presiding judge described the history of proceedings as "agonizing."

It doesn't faze Lico, who objected to the Public Guardian's proposal and says the money in the settlement isn't nearly enough. After legal costs, it's about $200,000 or less than $10,000 annually over the last two decades, he says.

Lico, who lives in a two-bedroom apartment and receives about $1,900 in monthly income from governments and his estranged wife, refuses to say how much would satisfy him. All Lico knows is that he wants to appeal the decision and is looking for another lawyer. He has gone through five litigators. "I just want what's fair," he said in an interview. "They've dragged this out to try to frustrate me so I would quit. They never wanted this to get to a trial and jury."

The Ontario Public Guardian, which acts on behalf of people judged to be "incapable," was appointed by the court in 2008, two years after Lico asked for help because he was unable to reduce medication and have a clear mind for legal proceedings.

The Public Guardian has no plans to appeal the settlement. But Lico remains undaunted about the possibility of not having any appeal rights. If that option is not open to him, Lico said he would complain to the Ontario Judicial Council about conduct of judges in the case.

"When you suffered a wrong, you don't want it to happen to anyone else so you keep fighting it. I'm going to get them (the insurers) and get them good," said Lico, who uses a motor scooter and says he walks in pain.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Case history

- **Bike accident.** Frank Lico suffered a meniscal tear in one knee, developed a cyst, had nerve damage in his spine and soft tissue injuries in his back. He also appeared to develop chronic pain and depression.
- **Endless trials.** Lico filed claims against the driver and insurers in 1993 and 1994. Trial dates were cancelled several times. A tentative settlement was finally reached in January 2011.

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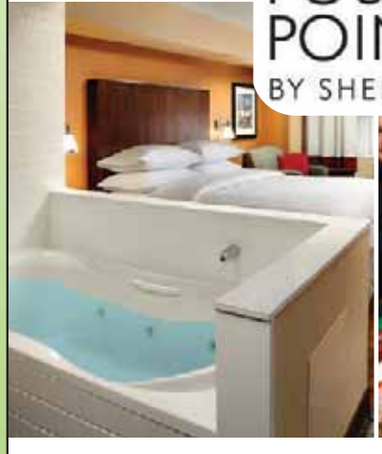

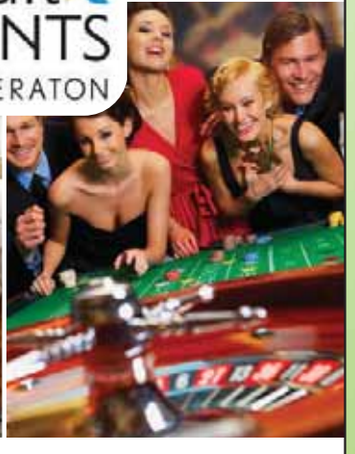

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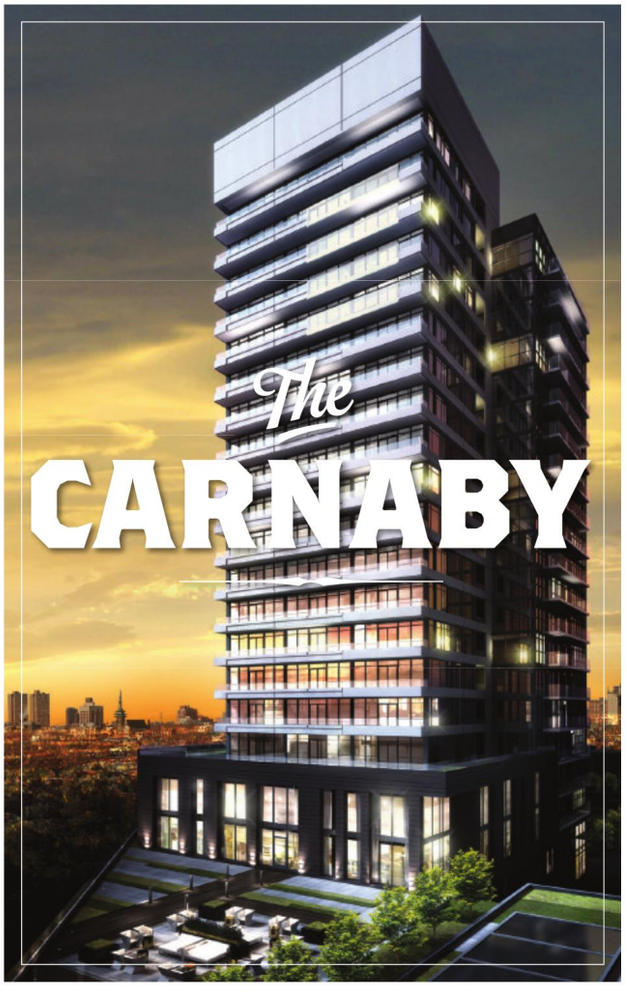

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Premier Dalton McGuinty visits a family in North York and plays a little hockey the day after the budget was unveiled. COLIN MC CONNELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Grits slam PCs for vow to vote against budget

May election? Hudak says he wont support budget, Liberals scrambling to get NDP support

With moves afoot on a budget deal to avert a snap election, the governing Liberals are ready to blame Progressive Conservative Leader Tim Hudak should he trigger "an unnecessary $150 million" vote in May.

Finance Minister Dwight Duncan signalled Wednesday he's willing to listen to NDP Leader Andrea Horwath's conditions for supporting the austerity budget that Hudak has vowed to defeat in the minority Legislature.

"She's been very responsible," Duncan told a news conference.

"The one thing I do know: the people of this province do not want an election, not five months after the last one."

Horwath said she'll consult with Ontarians for a couple of weeks before settling on a price for supporting the budget, but wants a tighter clampdown on executive compensation and more job creation measures.

"The government hangs in the balance," she said as the NDP launched a hotline for citizens to call with feedback .

Liberal campaign chair Greg Sorbara — architect of the 2003, 2007, and 2011 victories — said the Grits are gearing up for an election even as they strive to avoid one.

"Most Ontarians don't want their spring interrupted by Tim Hudak's unnecessary $150 million election," said Sorbara, MPP for Vaughan.

Sorbara's party spent tens of thousands of dollars on newspaper ads Wednesday, and is raising cash and wooing candidates for an election that could come as early as May 24.

Premier Dalton McGuinty, meanwhile, urged his rivals to settle down despite wearing a "Forward Together" jacket from last fall's vote to a campaign-style event at a North York home Wednesday morning. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Quotable

"Nobody wants to see an election, but nobody wants to see a $30 billion deficit either."

PC leader Tim Hudak

Voters sent 'very clear' message: Hudak

All three parties are still mired in their own campaign debts, which will likely discourage them from triggering an election so soon after the Oct. 6 vote.

The Liberals only need two opposition members to support the budget to avoid defeat. Tory Leader Tim Hudak, whose party is $6 million in debt, dismissed suggestions that he's flirting with disaster by voting against the budget. Ontario voters sent his party "very clear" marching orders to fight for jobs and a budget that will re-balance the books and cut spending.

"This is about putting principle head of party," Hudak said."If I saw a jobs plan, if I saw a real plan to curb spending in the budget, I'd support it."

The Tories and NDP will be able to make one amendment to the budget motion before the crucial confidence vote, which is expected no later than April 24. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Health minister faces questions about Ornge

Investigation.
Opposition calling for Matthews' resignation over mishandling of taxpayer dollars

Ontario's embattled health minister told a special committee Wednesday she was "handcuffed" by rules that prevented her from acting sooner to stop the waste of taxpayer dollars at Ornge.

Deb Matthews and her deputy minister, Saad Rafi, came under heavy opposition fire during hearings into the government's handling of the troubled air ambulance service.

Both Progressive Conservatives and New Democrats questioned how the government could have taken months to act, given the clear problems discovered by the auditor general in a draft report handed to the ministry last fall.

Deb Matthews
COLIN MCCONNELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Matthews argued Wednesday that because Ornge was a federally registered charity, she didn't have the authority to intervene, nor could she act in the face of the previous agreement with Ornge.

"I was really handcuffed, I could not take the kind of action that I think the public expected me to be able to take," Matthews said.

Matthews was at a loss, however, to explain how exactly she managed to get Ornge's board to resign just a few months later, and attributed the board's decision to voluntarily step aside to "significant pressure" from the media, the auditor and herself.

The scathing report, released this month, found the government gave Ornge $700 million over five years with virtually no oversight of how the money was spent.

Despite numerous red flags, the government failed to monitor the agency as it used the money to make "questionable" business deals, the auditor said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Crash leaves two in critical condition

Accident. Brinks tractor-trailer collides with rock face in northern Ontario, spilling millions of loonies and toonies

Police investigate the scene after a crash in northern Ontario on Wednesday. Millions of dollars in coins and a shipment of candy were scattered across the highway following the crash of a Brinks tractor-trailer that seriously injured two people. HANDOUT/ONTARIO PROVIDENCIAL POLICE/ THE CANADIAN PRESS

Millions of dollars in coins and a shipment of candy were scattered across an Ontario highway Wednesday following the crash of a Brinks tractor-trailer that seriously injured two people.

Both of the men who were in the Brinks truck were taken to hospital with life-threatening injuries, police said.

The crash happened around 4 a.m. on Highway 11, north of Kirkland Lake in northeastern Ontario, when the truck crossed the centre line and collided with a rock face, said Ontario Provincial Police Const. Marc Depatie.

The crash also caused a number of chain-reaction collisions, but the injuries were minor, he said. One of the trucks involved in the resulting crashes was carrying candy, he said.

That candy, along with $3 million to $5 million worth of loonies and toonies were strewn on the road and in the surrounding bush. The highway was closed by police, who essentially stood guard until the money could be removed.

"A private contractor will be using magnets and other mechanisms to recover the dispersed load," but clearing up the wreckage remains the top priority, Depatie said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Labour disputes. Canada Post worker accuses Raitt of using bullying tactics

The recent tensions between Air Canada workers and Lisa Raitt reminded Jim Gallant of the time he gave the federal labour minister a piece of his mind in public.

The veteran Canada Post worker said he had a pair of RCMP officers knocking on his office door — a response he equated to the sudden suspensions that triggered last week's early-morning wildcat strike at Canada's largest airline.

Three Air Canada workers were suspended recently for heckling Raitt at Toronto's Pearson Airport. Those suspensions triggered a strike by fellow workers angered by the government bringing in back-to-work legislation and sending their contract dispute with the airline to arbitration.

Gallant, a regional grievance officer with the Canadian Union of Postal Workers with 23 years at Canada Post, was in Toronto attending a hockey game at the Air Canada Centre last October when he said he accused Raitt to her face of lying to the Senate and the House of Commons when explaining why postal employees had to be ordered back to work.

Officials routinely report unusual incidents that take place on off-hours, said security consultant Chris Mathers, a former RCMP officer himself.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Minister of Labour Lisa Raitt on March 12. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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A Canadian Border Services vehicle arrives at the Canaport facility in New Brunswick shortly after the arrival of the FSL Hamburg, rear. The oil products tanker was carrying three survivors of a yachting accident that occurred off Sable Island. DAVID SMITH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sailboat's behaviour raises human trafficking suspicions

Federal law enforcement agencies have yet to determine if a sailboat that ran into trouble off Nova Scotia — leaving one man dead and three sailors lost at sea — was involved in human smuggling, Immigration Minister Jason Kenney said Wednesday.

But Kenney said some of those agencies believe the boat might have been trying to smuggle people into Canada based on its actions.

"We don't have final information but it certainly was some form of irregular travel," he said outside the House of Commons.

"We weren't aware that these people were coming to Canada."

Five people were rescued from the SV Tabasco 2 about 150 kilometres south of Cape Sable Island after the yacht had a mechanical failure on Monday night.

Public Safety Minister Vic Toews said Tuesday the tragedy is being treated as a possible case of human smuggling that went wrong, and that a number of survivors from the yacht have made refugee claims.

One man who was pulled from the yacht by a Cormorant helicopter was later pronounced dead in hospital in Yarmouth, N.S., where two other men were being treated for injuries that were described by the co-pilot of the rescue chopper as cuts and broken bones.

Three other people were taken on board the passing tanker FSL Hamburg, which arrived in Saint John, N.B., on Wednesday. The military said they were taken on board the tanker because they were not injured.

The RCMP says officers with the Canada Border Services Agency have begun interviewing the two men in Yarmouth and will interview the three other sailors from the tanker in Saint John.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Off course

"We don't have final information but it certainly was some form of irregular travel"

Immigration Minister Jason Kenney, referring to a sailboat that ran into trouble off Nova Scotia's coast.

Shoes take spotlight at Rafferty trial

Evidence. Woman testifies she found shoes allegedly belonging to McClintic on sideroad near Guelph

The shoes that Terri-Lynne McClintic says she wore when Victoria Stafford was killed were the focus Wednesday at the first-degree murder trial of McClintic's former boyfriend.

McClintic testified earlier at Michael Rafferty's trial that after Tori was killed north of Guelph, Ont., he instructed her to throw her shoes out the car window on a sideroad.

Rafferty, 31, has pleaded not guilty to first-degree murder, sexual assault causing bodily harm and kidnapping.

A woman who lives in the area testified Wednesday that in about early April 2009 — the month Tori was killed — she was taking a walk on Sideroad 6 near her home north of Guelph and found a pair of white basketball shoes with blue trim and a single shoe.

Lillian Metcalfe says she threw the single shoe out and took the pair of shoes home and washed them, intending to donate them to Goodwill. On May 30 she gave them to police while they were canvassing the area and McClintic later identified them as hers.

The jury saw the blue and white Shaq basketball shoes as they were entered as an exhibit at the trial Wednesday.

Metcalfe also said there was a car's back seat in the same area of the side road for a while. She mentioned it to police since she had heard they were searching for Rafferty's back seat, but by May 30 it was no longer there. She then told the officer about the shoes and he asked her to describe them, Metcalfe said.

"I said, 'Well, I think I can do one better than that,' " Metcalfe testified Wednesday. "'I have the shoes in the house. Would you like to see them?"

Tori's remains were found partially clothed in a field near Mount Forest, further north of Guelph, more than 100 days after she went missing April 8, 2009.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

McClintic testimony

McClintic testified that after Tori was killed Rafferty went to great lengths to cover up their crime.

- "He turned his lights off and pulled onto a sideroad," she said of their actions following the murder. "He said, 'we need to get rid of our shoes, so I believe I tossed my pair of shoes out the car window," she added.

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U.S., Canada poised to OK Omar Khadr transfer

A "frustrated" Omar Khadr could be back in Canada by the end of May, with both Ottawa and Washington poised to approve his transfer from Guantanamo Bay, where the convicted war criminal has been held for almost a decade, The Canadian Press has learned.

A source familiar with the file said U.S. Secretary of Defence Leon Panetta was expected to sign off on the transfer within a week.

"It's on his desk, it's ready," the source said Wednesday. "The U.S. has no concerns about (Khadr)."

Khadr has been caught up in a bureaucratic "Catch-22" since becoming eligible to leave the American prison on Cuba last October under terms of a plea agreement struck a year earlier.

The Toronto-born Khadr, 25, pleaded guilty before a much-maligned U.S. military commission to five war crimes he committed as a 15-year-old in Afghanistan in July 2002.

In exchange, the Canadian citizen was given an eight-year sentence, with one year to be served in Guantanamo Bay and the remainder in Canada.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper's government has been in no hurry to approve the transfer request, which Khadr's lawyers submitted to both governments a year ago.

Instead, the source said, Ottawa has been scrutinizing the application far more closely than required, looking at issues such as his parole eligibility, which would essentially be almost immediate.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada's chief public health officer Dr. David Butler-Jones, left, speaks to B.C. provincial health officer Dr. Perry Kendall in 2009. Kendall calls for a new approach to federal drug policy. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Health officers slam drug policy

Criticism. Top municipal, provincial experts denounce federal strategy, call for an evidence-based approach

A number of leading figures in Canadian public health are criticizing the federal government's approach to drug policy, suggesting political ideology is trumping scientific evidence.

In a two-pronged attack, the chief medical officers of health for British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia published a commentary in the journal Open Medicine that calls on the government to rethink strategies like minimum mandatory sentences for minor drug-related offences.

And the Urban Public Health Network, a group that represents the chief public health officers in Canada's 18 largest municipalities, has announced its endorsement of the Vienna Declaration, which calls on governments to draft drug policies based on evidence of what works.

"Basically what we're saying is that we don't think that the model we're using is particularly effective," said Dr. Perry Kendall, British Columbia's chief medical officer of health. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Salient points:

- Call for a drug-policy approach that deals with addiction as a health problem, not a criminal justice issue.
- There is no evidence that harm-reduction policies such as needle exchanges lead to increased drug use, wrote the chief medical officers.
- They pointed to Portugal as an example of a country that decriminalized drugs a decade ago but hasn't seen an increase in harm.

Million-dollar baby. Oz couple charged large for birth of child in B.C.

Australia's foreign affairs minister is looking into the case of a Sydney couple stuck with a million-dollar hospital bill after their daughter was born in Vancouver last August.

John Kan and Rachel Evans had taken out travel insurance and extra coverage for Evans' pregnancy without realizing the policy would not cover the birth or the baby.

They were about to return to Australia after their B.C. vacation when Evans went into premature labour at the airport.

Piper Kan stayed in the neo-natal ward of the B.C. Women's Hospital and Health Centre for three months and the bill ended up being about $1 million.

Evans said she is grateful for any help the government might be able to provide.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

By the numbers:

278

The number of years it will take the two to pay off the bill, in a negotiated plan with the hospital where they pay $300 a month.

Halifax. Court to decide on bail for officer accused of espionage

A Nova Scotia judge will decide Friday whether to grant bail to a navy intelligence officer accused of espionage.

Sub-Lt. Jeffrey Paul Delisle appeared in Halifax provincial court Wednesday, charged with communicating information that could harm national interests. He has been in custody at the Central Nova Scotia Correctional Facility since his arrest in January.

Judge Barbara Beach granted the defence's request for a publication ban covering evidence presented at Delisle's bail hearing.

Sub-Lt. Jeffrey Paul Delisle. ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Delisle was charged under a section of the Security of Information Act that was passed after the 9-11 attacks.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

‘There was no justice available to her’

Suicide. Prominent Pakistani acid attack victim ends her life after enduring dozens of surgeries

Family members of acid attack victim Fakhra Younus mourn her death at Karachi airport in Pakistan on Sunday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pakistani acid attack victim Fakhra Younus had endured more than three dozen surgeries over more than a decade to repair her severely damaged face and body when she finally decided life was no longer worth living.

The 33-year-old former dancing girl — who was allegedly attacked by her then-husband, an ex-lawmaker and son of a political powerhouse — jumped from the sixth floor of a building in Rome, where she had been living and receiving treatment.

Her March 17 suicide and the return of her body to Pakistan on Sunday reignited furor over the case, which received significant international attention at the time of the attack. Her death came less than a month after a Pakistani filmmaker won the country’s first Oscar for a documentary about acid attack victims.

Younus’ story highlights the horrible mistreatment many women face in Pakistan’s conservative, male-dominated culture and is a reminder that the country’s rich and powerful often appear to operate with impunity. Younus’ ex-husband, Bilal Khar, was eventually acquitted, but many believe he used his connections to escape the law’s grip — a common occurrence in Pakistan.

More than 8,500 acid attacks, forced marriages and other forms of violence against women were reported in Pakistan in 2011, according to The Aurat Foundation, a women’s rights organization. Because the group relied mostly on media reports, the figure is likely an undercount.

“The saddest part is that she realized that the system in Pakistan was never going to provide her with relief or remedy,” Nayyar Shabana Kiyani, an activist at The Aurat Foundation, said of Younus. “She was totally disappointed that there was no justice available to her.”

Younus was a teenage dancing girl working in the red light district of the southern city of Karachi when she met her future husband, the son of Ghulam Mustafa Khar, a former governor of Pakistan’s largest province, Punjab.

The unusual pairing was the younger Khar’s third marriage. He was in his mid-30s at the time. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Attack

- Fakhra Younus and Bilal Khar were married for three years, but Younus eventually left him because he allegedly physically and verbally abused her. She claimed that he came to her mother’s house while she was sleeping in May 2000 and poured acid all over her in the presence of her 5-year-old son from a different man.

Religion. Is this the Year of the Bible? One group really doesn’t think so

A U.S.-based organization that supports the idea of freedom from religion has filed a federal lawsuit over a resolution in Pennsylvania that has declared 2012 The Year of the Bible.

The Freedom from Religion Foundation, a Madison, Wisc.-based organization, is asking the federal court to declare the resolution a violation of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution as well as a violation of the constitution of the state of Pennsylvania.

“It is offensive to our membership in Pennsylvania to be exhorted by their government to study and apply the scriptures — to have the government anoint the Bible as the holy book for the state,” said Annie Laurie Gaylor, co-founder and co-president of Freedom from Religion Foundation (FFRF).

The resolution states: “The House of Representatives declares 2012 as the Year of the Bible in Pennsylvania in recognition of both the formative influence of the Bible on our Commonwealth and nation and our national need to study and apply the teachings of the holy scripture.”

Pennsylvania Representative Rick Saccone, who introduced the resolution, is named as a defendant in the lawsuit. At the time he introduced the resolution he said that both Pennsylvania and the entire U.S. “face great tests and challenges” and that “we must look to our faith in God and the Holy Scripture to provide us with the strength and courage to face these great trials,” according to the lawsuit. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

‘Free thinkers’

- The Freedom from Religion Foundation (FFRF) is made up of 17,500 members across the U.S. — with 599 of them in Pennsylvania. Annie Laurie Gaylor, co-founder and co-president, describes her membership as that of “atheists, agnostics and free thinkers.”

Philippines

Facebook bikini photo lands student in trouble

A Catholic school student has been banned from graduation ceremonies in the Philippines because a photo on her Facebook page shows her wearing a bikini while holding a cigarette and a liquor bottle.

Education Assistant Secretary Tonisito Umali said Wednesday the department will investigate a complaint by the girl’s mother against the St. Theresa’s College High School in central Cebu City to determine whether the penalty was appropriate.

A judge is expected to rule on the complaint before Friday’s graduation. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Fukushima measures high levels of radiation

Plant examination. State of two other reactors, which could be in far worse condition, unknown

Workers conduct radiation-dose measurement in the Unit 2 reactor's primary containment vessel at the tsunami-crippled Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant in Okuma, northeastern Japan. Unit 2 still had fatally high radiation levels and much less water to cool it than officials estimated. TOKYO ELECTRIC POWER CO./THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

One of Japan's crippled nuclear reactors still has fatally high radiation levels and hardly any water to cool its fuel, according to an internal examination that reinforces doubts about the plant's stability.

A tool equipped with a tiny video camera, a thermometer, a dosimeter and a water gauge was used to assess damage inside the No. 2 reactor's containment chamber Tuesday for the second time since the tsunami swept into the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant a year ago.

The data collected showed the damage from the disaster is so severe, the plant operator will have to develop special equipment and technology to tolerate the harsh environment and decommission the plant, a process expected to last decades. The other two reactors that had meltdowns could be in even worse shape. The No. 2 reactor is the only one plant workers have been able to closely examine so far.

Tuesday's examination with an industrial endoscope detected radiation levels up to 10 times the fatal dose inside the chamber. Plant officials previously said more than half of the melted fuel has breached the core and dropped to the floor of the primary containment vessel.

Particles from melted fuel have probably sent radiation levels up to a dangerously high 70 sieverts per hour inside the container, said Junichi Matsumoto, spokesman for Tokyo Electric Power Co. The figure far exceeds the highest level previously detected, 10 sieverts per hour, which was detected last year.

"It's extremely high," he said, adding that an endoscope would last only 14 hours in those conditions. "We have to develop equipment that can tolerate high radiation" when locating and removing melted fuel during decommissioning.

The plant is continuing to pump water into the reactor.

Video footage taken by the probe showed the water inside was clear but contained dark yellow sediments, believed to be fragments of rust, paint that had been peeled off or dust.

A probe done in January failed to find the water surface and provided only images showing steam, unidentified parts and rusty metal surfaces scarred by exposure to radiation, heat and humidity. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Other findings

- **Water level.** The containment vessel had cooling water up to only 60 cm from the bottom, far below the 10 m estimated when the government declared the plant stable in December.
- **Water surface.** A probe done in January failed to find the water surface. Finding the water level was important to help locate damaged areas where radioactive water is escaping.
- **Temperature.** The actual water level was way off the estimate. But the results don't affect the plant's "cold shutdown status" because the water temperature was about 50 C, indicating the melted fuel is cooled.

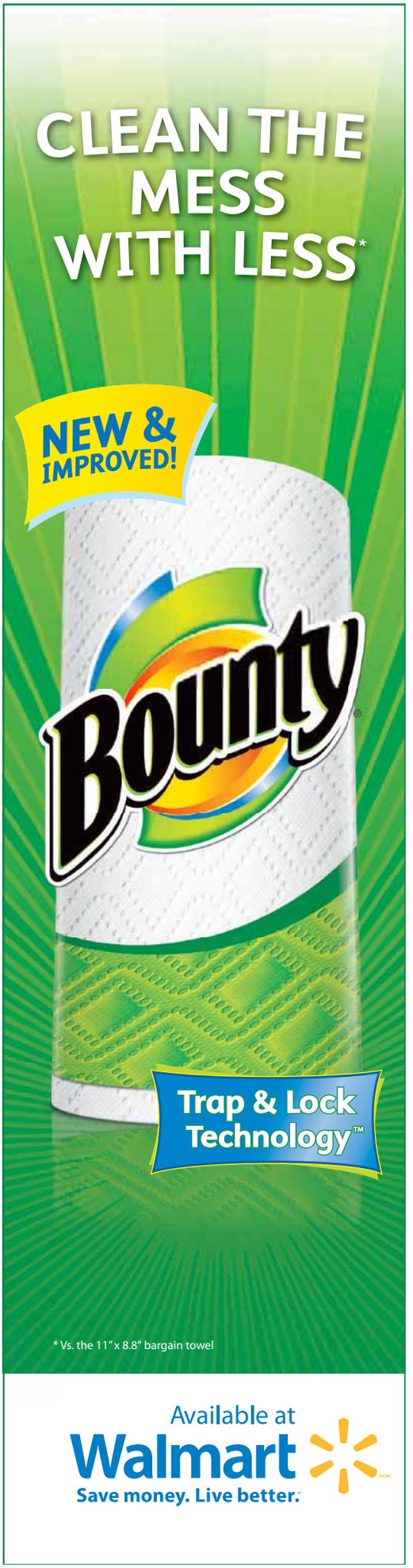
Severe weather ahead: Panel

Global warming is leading to such severe storms, droughts and heat waves that countries should prepare for an unprecedented onslaught of deadly and costly weather disasters, an international panel of climate scientists says in a report issued Wednesday.

The greatest danger from extreme weather is in highly populated, poor regions of the world, the report warns, but no corner of the globe — from Mumbai to Miami — is immune. The document by a Nobel Prize-winning panel of scientists forecasts stronger tropical cyclones and more heat waves, deluges and droughts.

The report blames the scale of recent and future disasters on a combination of man-made climate change, population shifts and poverty. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Neighbours look over the wreckage of a mobile home that was struck by a tornado March 23 near Opdyke in Jefferson County, Ill.
ALAN ROGERS/THE SOUTHERN ILLINOISAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Sheila Nabb and her husband, Andrew, are shown in a family handout photo. THE CANADIAN PRESS/HO

Canadians offer support for alleged attacker

Assault. Canucks host fundraiser for Mexican man accused of assaulting a Calgary woman on vacation

While Calgarian Sheila Nabb is still recovering from a brutal beating at a Mazatlan hotel, reports from a Mexican media outlet indicate a group of Canadians are supporting the alleged assailant.

Nabb was found badly beaten in a hotel elevator in January while on vacation. In the days following the attack, Mexican authorities arrested José Ramón Acosta Quintero.

A translation from Mazatlan news outlet Noroeste reads, "Incredibly, it was learned that members of the Canadian community in the port hosted a dinner in aid of Acosta Quintero (a) few days ago, in order to raise funds and pay a lawyer."

When contacted by Metro, reporters from Noroeste confirmed a source informed them of the fundraiser hosted by Canadians in Mexico.

Nabb's boss, Dr. David Peterson, said he was initially surprised and disturbed to hear of the fundraiser, adding she has been going through a long, difficult recovery.

"It just seems kind of strange. ... They've never supported Sheila and she was the victim here, but yet they choose to support someone who may have been responsible for it," he said.

Peterson said Nabb will likely return to work in three months time. THE CANADIAN PRESS WITH FILES FROM JEREMY NOLAIS

State lottery

Record jackpot still up for grabs

No one picked the six correct numbers in the latest multi-state Mega Millions lottery game in the U.S., sending the jackpot to a record $476 million for the Friday drawing. Tuesday night's jackpot was $363 million. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

London 2012

Britain bulks up Olympic security

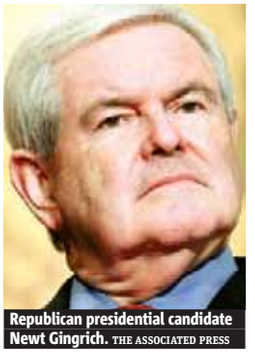
Britain has planned for an array of security nightmares surrounding the Olympics, including a co-ordinated attack like the London transit bombings, a dirty bomb or a cyberattack. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Presidential race. Gingrich refuses to bow out of Republican primary

Newt Gingrich's White House aspirations have been on life support for weeks, but the struggling Republican haughtily defended his decision to remain in his party's presidential race on Wednesday despite dismal primary results, a serious debt problem and a dramatic cut in staff.

Gingrich expressed dismay about suggestions that he should drop out of the race to enable Mitt Romney to seal the nomination well before the party convention in August.

"Well, you know, Romney has to earn this," he said in a radio interview in the U.S. capital. "It's not going to be given to him and we have every right to run. I have 176,000 folks who go on to Newt.org and donated, and I think that's a very important factor." THE CANADIAN PRESS



Republican presidential candidate Newt Gingrich. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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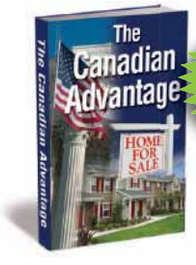

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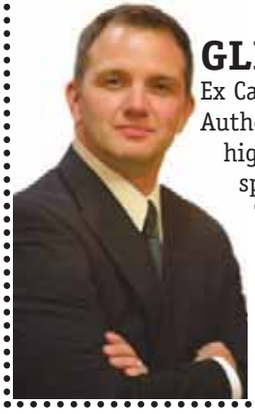

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Losing it in the air

A quick look at infamous flyers

JetBlue is reviewing its mental-health checks for pilots after Capt. Clayton Osbon went berserk at New York's JFK airport on Tuesday. Planes can have a funny effect on people, so we looked at some of the other worst-ever flyers.

Gerard Depardieu
The renowned French actor caused trouble on a Paris-Dublin flight last summer. As the plane was about to takeoff, Depardieu was denied entry to the toilets and so used a water bottle instead. Depardieu was escorted off the flight but explained the incident by saying, "I am an elephant."

RIM executives
George Campbell and Paul Alexander Wilson were high-ranking officials with the BlackBerry maker, but had to be tied up after drunken swearing and violence on a December flight. The executives then attempted to chew through the restraints.

Naomi Campbell
The supermodel subjected airport staff to a barrage of abuse after finding her bags had not been loaded at Heathrow in 2008. Police were called but Campbell kicked and spat at them, accusing them of prejudice because she was "black and famous." She received 200 hours of community service.

Alec Baldwin
Another actor with flight issues. The 30 Rock star was kicked off an American Airlines flight last year after refusing to stop playing Words With Friends on his cellphone.

KIERON MONKS/METRO WORLD NEWS

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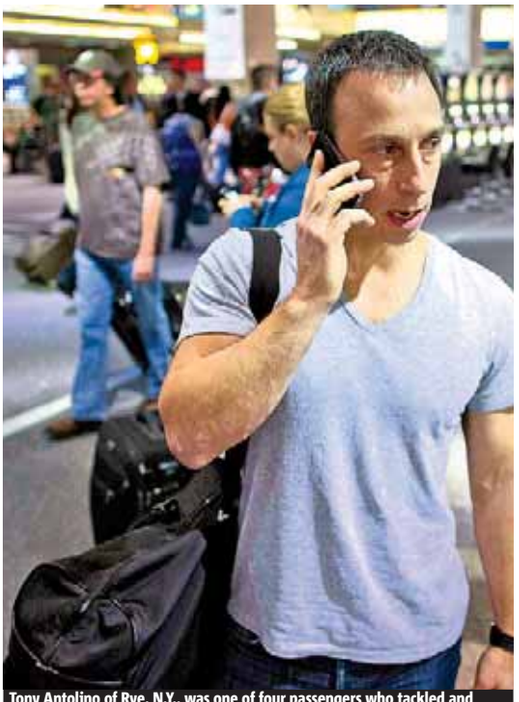

Tony Antolino of Rye, N.Y., was one of four passengers who tackled and restrained the captain. JULIE JACOBSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pilot charged in midair incident

JetBlue airline.
Captain's bizarre behaviour forces passengers to act

A JetBlue Airways captain who sprinted through the cabin of a Las Vegas-bound flight screaming about terrorists, Jesus and Sept. 11 was charged Wednesday with interfering with a flight crew, federal authorities said.

Capt. Clayton Osbon told his co-pilot that "things just don't matter" shortly after JetBlue Flight 191 from New York departed Tuesday, according to an affidavit. Osbon, who was ultimately tackled by passengers while the plane made an emergency landing in Texas, told his co-pilot that "we're not going to Vegas" and began what was described as a sermon, the court documents said.

"The (first officer) became really worried when Osbon said, 'We need to take a leap of faith,'" according to the sworn affidavit given by an FBI agent. "Osbon started trying to correlate completely unrelated numbers like different radio frequencies, and he talked about sins in Las Vegas."

Osbon left the cockpit soon after and tensions on the plane began to escalate, according to witness accounts compiled by investigators. Osbon, described by neighbours in Georgia as tall and muscular, "aggressively" grabbed the hands of a flight attendant who confronted him and later sprinted down the cabin while being chased.

"Nobody knew what to do because he is the captain of the plane," said passenger Don Davis. "You're not just going to jump up and attack the captain."

But four men did just that, using seatbelt extenders and zip-tie handcuffs to restrain and pin Osbon to the floor for more than 20 minutes while the co-pilot and an off-duty pilot who was aboard landed the plane in Amarillo, Texas.

Breakdown

"Clearly, he had an emotional or mental type of breakdown."
Tony Antolino
A security executive who tackled the pilot

The charges against Osbon, 49, were filed in Texas. He was being held Wednesday at Northwest Texas Healthcare System in Amarillo and remains under a medical evaluation.

Under federal law, a conviction for interference with a flight crew or attendants can bring up to 20 years in prison. The offence is defined as assaulting or intimidating the crew, interfering with its duties or diminishing its ability to operate the plane.

JetBlue spokeswoman Allison Steinberg said earlier Wednesday that Osbon had been suspended pending a review of the flight.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Galaxy resembles 'emerald-cut' diamond

Spotted. Shiny new galaxy dubbed Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds

It is the 74,886th galaxy in the Lyon Extragalactic Database (LEDA) of 1.5-million galaxies, but some people are calling the new rectangular cosmic jewel Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds.

"We did unofficially refer to it as the 'emerald-cut' galaxy" because of its striking resemblance to an emerald-cut diamond, Australian astronomer Alister Graham told the Toronto Star. That triggered the even more unofficial name from the old Beatles song.

And it fits, said Graham. When he and his colleagues first spotted LEDA 074886 some 70-million light years away, their reaction was "Wow, will you look at that."

Emerald

Its importance isn't just in its shape, Graham said.

- "In recent years there has been an increased awareness of blue elliptical-shaped galaxies," he said. "Perhaps up to four per cent of galaxies fall into this category.

The astronomers discovered the galaxy last year but are just reporting it now in the Astrophysics Journal.

The dazzling dwarf galaxy with its spinning deep blue core, blinding white "emerald-cut" surface and sparking red rim is an astronomic anomaly.

"Symmetrical rectangular galaxies are very unusual. We were very surprised to find it," said Graham.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The astronomers discovered the galaxy last year but are just reporting it now in the Astrophysics Journal. SWINBURNE UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Do you take milk with your dog?

Beyonce, a Dachshund puppy vying for the title of World's Smallest Dog, is fed in a coffee cup on Wednesday in New York. Animal rescuers in Northern California say Beyonce was so small at birth that she could fit into a spoon. BEBETO MATTHEWS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

History

Big fish: Apollo 11 engines to be rescued from ocean's depths

The huge engines that helped boost the Apollo 11 mission to the moon have been in the Atlantic for more than four decades.

Now an Internet billionaire and space enthusiast says he used sonar to spot the artifacts and wants to raise at least one to the surface.

In a blog post Wednesday, Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos said he's making plans to recover the sunken engines, part of the powerful Saturn V rocket that delivered Neil Armstrong to the moon. The engines dropped into the ocean as planned after liftoff in 1969.

The engines belong to NASA, but Bezos hopes they'll go to museums. NASA said it looked forward to hearing more about the recovery.

Bezos offered few details, but said the job will be done with private funds.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

I wear it for my mother.
My mom was diagnosed with uterine cancer at age 52 when I was still a teenager and fought it with amazing strength and optimism that was an inspiration to our whole family. Today, she is a happy, healthy woman who continues to inspire the people around her.
It is estimated that 4,700 new cases of cancer will be diagnosed in Canada in 2012. Supporting cancer research can help to find new and better ways to diagnose and treat the disease.
Join the fight.
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Société canadienne du cancer
fightback.ca
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Snack food chain Greggs, at the centre of Britain's food tax issue.
ALASTAIR GRANT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pie tax a hot issue for Cameron

Cornish pasty. U.K. government called out of touch for tax on popular lunch item

The British government's intention to tax the humble Cornish pasty, a cheap pastry savoury snack much beloved by workers and students, has opened a new front in the country's never-ending class war.

In his U.K. budget last week, Finance Minister George Osborne announced he would close a loophole which allowed some fresh-baked takeout items — including pies, sausage rolls and pasties — to escape a 20 per cent sales tax.

The move, however, has caused a media storm, with tabloid headlines portraying the new tax as an attack by the Conservative-led government on working class life.

This Tuesday, Osborne faced questions from a parliamentary committee on aspects of his budget — which included such macroeconomic measures as a cut in the top rate of income tax, a lowering in the personal tax allowance for retired people and reduction in corporation tax. But it was the levy on the lowly pasty — a mixture of meat and vegetables encased in pastry — that generated all the headlines.

"I can't remember the last time I bought a pasty in Greggs," Osborne told a parliamentary committee on Tuesday, referring to a low-price snack shop chain.

"That kind of sums it up," responded Labour Party lawmaker John Mann, a former union official.

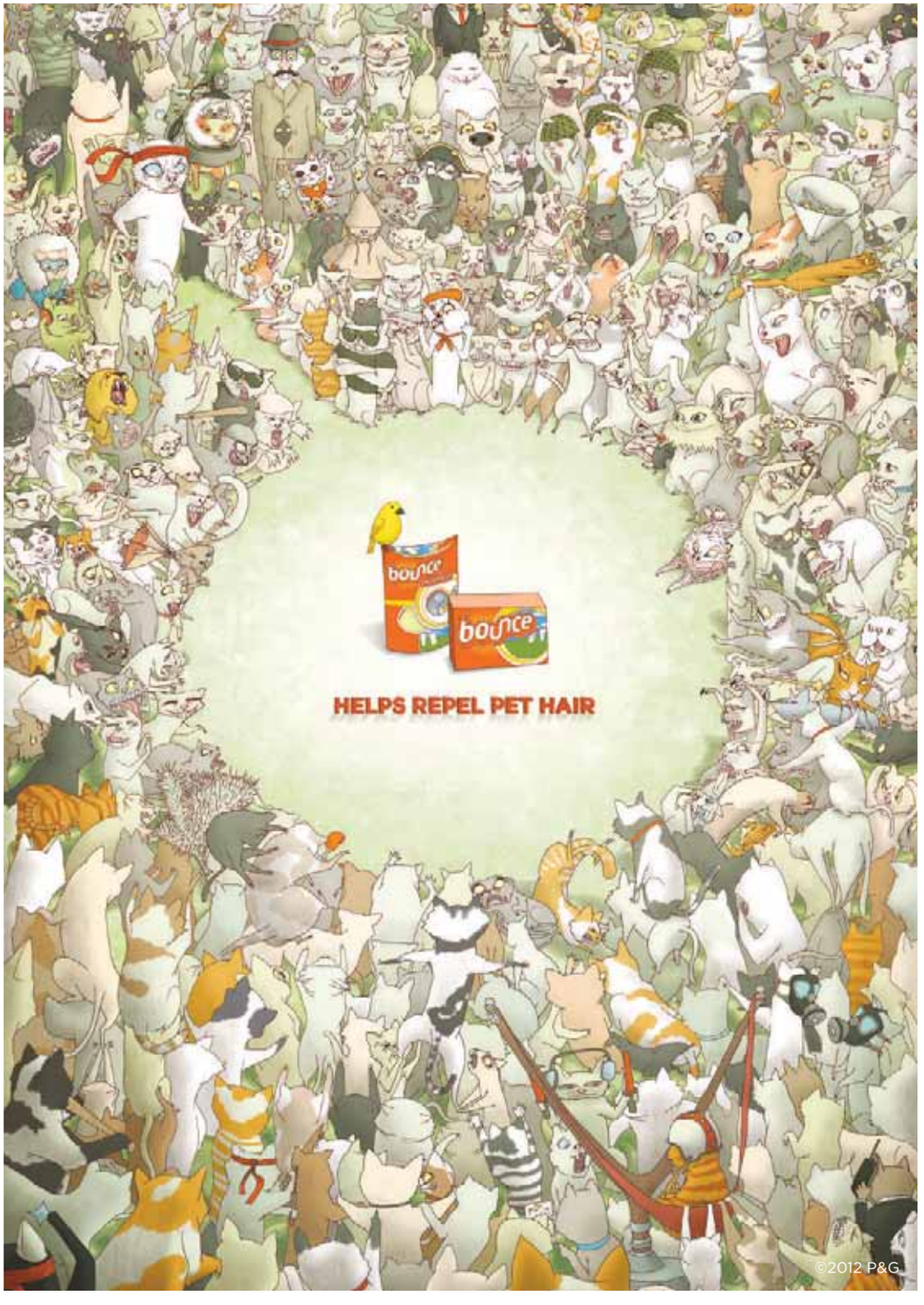
At a press conference Wednesday to discuss London's readiness for the Olympics this summer, Prime Minister David Cameron was compelled to pledge allegiance to the pasty.

"I am a pasty eater myself,'' he declared to reporters. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Statement

"I am a pasty eater myself"

Prime Minister David Cameron
Responding to reporters on the issue



Jubilee. Queen gets Tussauds makeover

The Queen is getting a makeover for her Diamond Jubilee — at Madame Tussauds.

The museum says it will unveil a new wax figure of the monarch in May.

The new work is the 23rd waxwork of Elizabeth since she first appeared at the London attraction in 1928 as a two-year-old.

It is modelled after her official jubilee portrait photograph.

Madame Tussauds said Wednesday that while the Queen did not sit for this latest wax figure, the monarch is very involved and has sent over measurements and approvals for different aspects of the sculpture.

The new figure will replace the current sculpture created in 2001.

It will be placed alongside her husband, Prince Philip. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A sculptor puts finishing touches on the new wax figure of Queen Elizabeth.
MADAME TUSSAUDS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stockholm

Swedes show off lunchtime moves

Some workers in Sweden have found a rather offbeat way to spend their lunch hour. Actually, on-beat is more like it.

Dripping with sweat and awash in disco lights, they dance away to pulsating club music at Lunch Beat, a trend that started in Stockholm and is spreading to other cites in Europe.

Then they go back to work.

The party starts at noon and goes on for one hour. There's no alcohol, which gives it a different ambiance than nighttime clubbing, said Daniel Odelstad, the 31-year-old organizer of Lunch Beat Stockholm.

"People are sober, it's in the middle of the day and it is very short, effective and intensive," he said. "You just have to get in there and dance because the hour ends pretty quickly."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Florida

Teen's slaying now big business

The case of an unarmed black teenager killed by a neighbourhood watch volunteer is quickly turning into an Internet-fueled brand.

Websites are hawking key chains bearing Trayvon Martin's likeness. His parents have bought two trademarks, saying they hope to raise money to help other families struck by tragedy. Trayvon clothes, bumper stickers, buttons and posters are up for grabs on Ebay.

Vendors selling Martin T-shirts and hoodies have become fixtures at rallies in Sanford, the central Florida town where Martin was shot last month. The Martin shooting by neighbourhood watch volunteer George Zimmerman, who says he shot the 17-year-old Miami teen in self-defence, has inflamed racial tensions across the country, brought out thousands for rallies, prompted a civil rights probe and a personal reference to the case by President Barack Obama.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hoodie in the House rebuked

This handout frame grab from video provided by House Television shows Rep. Bobby Rush, D-Ill., wearing a hoodie as he speaks on the floor of the House on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday. Rush donned a hoodie during the speech on the House floor deploring the killing of Florida teenager Trayvon Martin, receiving a reprimand for violating rules on wearing hats in the House chamber. HOUSE TELEVISION/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'The family has had death threats'

Trayvon Martin.
Shooter has gone into hiding, Zimmerman's family says they are being threatened

Supporters of an unarmed black U.S. teen who was shot to death pack churches, swarm rallies and wear hooded sweatshirts in solidarity, while friends and family of Trayvon Martin's shooter remain largely out of sight. The few who have defended neighbourhood watch volunteer George Zimmerman have done so reluctantly, most fearing public backlash.

Zimmerman, 28, has gone into hiding. His version of what happened in Florida on the rainy night of Feb. 26 has only trickled out from police and his attorney. Zimmerman said he was following the 17-year-old Martin because he was acting suspicious. He said he lost sight of the teenager and Martin attacked him as he headed back to his sport utility vehicle.

Zimmerman told police he fired in self-defence and has not been charged, touching off widespread public outrage and protests across the country.

Martin's supporters believe race played a role in the shooting. Martin was black; Zimmerman's father is white and his mother is Hispanic.

"The family has had death threats, the father and mother, George has had death threats. Anything related to George is a target," said Miguel Meza, who identified himself as Zimmerman's cousin.

Martin's supporters, which include a host of outspoken celebrities and civil rights leaders, don't believe Zimmerman's story.

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Syrian forces take latest rebel-held town

Saraqeb. Forty killed by government forces since Sunday, activists say

Syrian activists said Wednesday a government offensive in northern Syria during which troops overran a major opposition stronghold has left behind scenes of destruction, with corpses in the streets, homes burned to the ground and shops that have been pillaged and looted.

The reports of 40 people dead in Saraqeb since Sunday come as Arab leaders meeting in Baghdad remain deeply divided over how to help solve Syria's yearlong crisis.

President Bashar Assad said he has accepted a six-point UN plan to resolve the conflict, including a ceasefire, but the opposition is deeply skeptical that he will carry it out.

The fall of Saraqeb, a large town on the main highway linking the northern city of Aleppo with the Syrian capital, was the latest in a string of opposition strongholds to fall to ruthless assaults by the better-equipped Syrian military.

Most of those strongholds and areas around them have since seen renewed flare-ups in violence, reflecting the resiliency of the uprising and the military's inability to firmly put down the revolt.

Activists on Wednesday also reported clashes between Syrian army units and rebels in the country's centre, east and south.

At least four civilians, four soldiers and five army defectors were killed in the central town of Qalaat al-Madiq and nearby villages, activists said, as troops advanced and closed in on rebels. The town, in Hama province, has been battered by heavy machine-guns and artillery for days. Activists said the town's historic castle was not spared the shelling.

"People are fleeing their homes, many of them unsure which direction to take," said an activist in the area who identified himself as Ammar.

The military seized Saraqeb overnight after a four-day offensive that began Sunday. Rebel fighters had an active presence in the northern town and used it as a base to target army convoys nearby. In Saraqeb, as in other towns and cities recaptured recently by the army, Syrian troops left behind a trail of death and destruction. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

White House

Assad must leave office: U.S.

The White House says Syria's acceptance of a United Nations-backed plan to end violence in the country does not change the U.S. view that Syrian President Bashar Assad must leave power.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest says the U.S. has heard promises from Assad before. He says the U.S. will view the Assad regime on its actions, not its words.

Assad said Monday that he was accepting the six-point plan first introduced by UN envoy Kofi Annan. The plan calls for a ceasefire and the beginning of a political dialogue that can lead to a democracy.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UN envoy Kofi Annan.

LINTAO ZHANG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bloodshed

U.S. senators call for condemnation

A half-dozen senators are pushing a resolution condemning the Syrian regime of President Bashar Assad for mass atrocities and human-rights abuses against the nation's people.

In introducing the measure, the Republican senators and Independent Joe Lieberman criticized President Barack Obama for what they called a failure of leadership. The United Nations estimates that more than 9,000 Syrians have died in the continuing violence.

Senator John McCain, Obama's 2008 Republican presidential rival, asked how many more have to die before the United States takes a leadership role to end the slaughter.

The nonbinding resolution urges the president to work with Arab countries to provide Syrian rebels with the means to defend themselves, including weapons.

It stops short of calling for airstrikes against Syria, as McCain has urged.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Aid

Urgent appeal

The Local Coordination Committees network issued an appeal for international humanitarian organizations to urgently visit the town and said there were many unidentified corpses and wounded people there.

"Regime forces have forcibly displaced a large number of activists' families, and burned and shelled approximately 300 homes. They also pillaged and set fire to most shops," the LCC said in a statement.

The British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights confirmed the reports and said most of the town's residents had fled along with the rebels. It said more than 40 people had been killed during the fighting over recent days.

The reports by the groups and by other activists could not be independently confirmed.

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In this citizen-journalism image, black smoke rises from buildings in Homs, Syria. Three Syrian soldiers died in clashes with rebels on Wednesday just a day after President Bashar Assad said he has accepted a UN plan to resolve the country's crisis. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/LOCAL COORDINATION COMMITTEES IN SYRIA

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Diplomacy. Arab League looking to resolve conflict

The 22-member Arab League was discussing a new resolution on the Syria conflict at a summit in Baghdad.

The body's foreign ministers were expected to ask their heads of state to urge the Syrian regime to halt its crackdown on civilians, allow humanitarian groups into the country and free detainees. The ministers were meeting in the Iraqi capital on Wednesday, and heads of state will gather on Thursday.

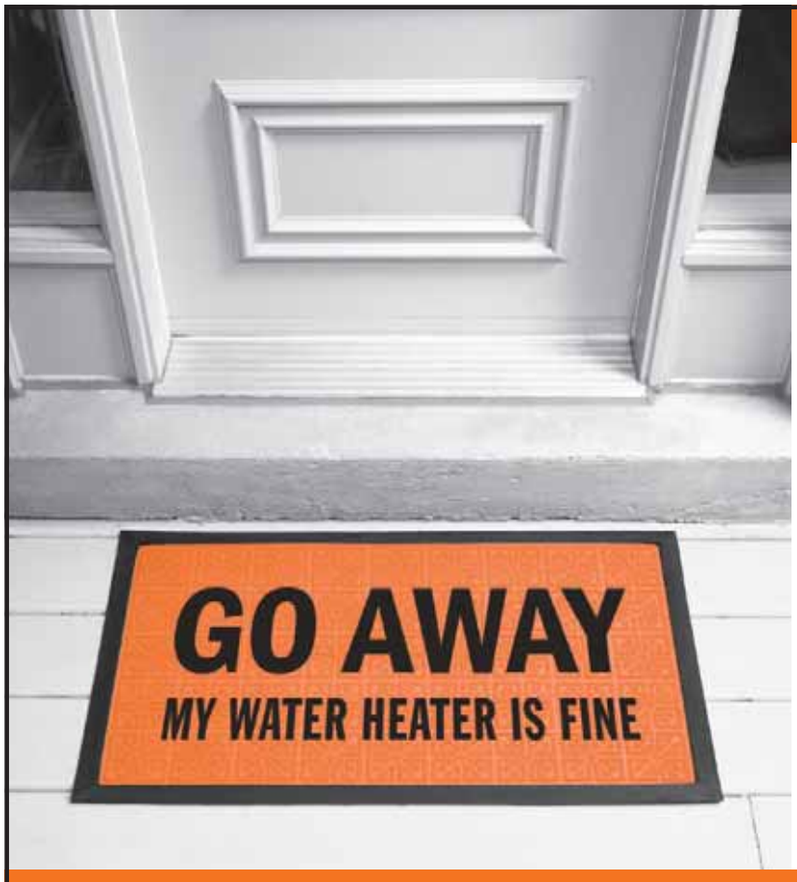
A Syrian Foreign Ministry spokesman, Jihad Makdessi, said Damascus would "not deal with any initiative" that might come out of the 22-member Arab League.

The league suspended Syria's membership last year as a part of a package of sanctions aimed at pressuring it to stop the crackdown.

Arab countries are divided over how aggressively to intervene in Syria's turmoil. Gulf nations, particularly Saudi Arabia and Qatar, are believed to want to start providing weapons to Syria's rebels and even carve out a "safe area" inside the country that the opposition can use as a staging ground.

Iraqi Foreign Affairs Minister Hoshyar Zebari
HADI MIZBAN /THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Iraq, the host of this week's summit, is more cautious. Baghdad's Shiite-dominated government is close to Iran, Assad's closest ally, and is wary of hurting those ties. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Cuba	89.9 ¢/min	Pakistan	5.9 ¢/min	U.A.E.	14.9 ¢/min
El Salvador	9.9 ¢/min	Philippines	11.9 ¢/min	U.K.	2.9 ¢/min
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Two of Canada's younger federal politicians are grabbing attention and raising money for the Ottawa Regional Cancer Foundation by trading their metaphorical political jabs for literal ones in a boxing ring this weekend. But with young people staying away from voting in droves, Metro decided to ask them and the NDP's youngest leadership contender if they have any ideas about how to hold the public's attention and attract more youth to politics.

METRO OTTAWA

Young politicos duke it out for youth engagement

Conservative Sen. Patrick Brazeau flexes his muscles outside Parliament in Ottawa. SEAN MCKIBBON/METRO

Young Tory senator fights in ring, on Twitter. There should be more young people in the Senate: Patrick Brazeau

Patrick Brazeau doesn't look like your archetypal senator — especially in his Twitter profile pic, showing off his generous, tattooed muscles.

Brazeau, 37, hails from Kitigan Zibi First Nation in Quebec, served in the Canadian Forces and was chief of the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples before he was the youngest Canadian ever named to the Senate in 2008.

Sober second thought doesn't necessarily improve with age, he said.

"Many people who've had long careers and are appointed to the Senate, obviously they have many things to contribute, but equally important is to have young voices in the Senate," he said.

He'll be fighting for the Conservatives when he boxes Justin Trudeau at an Ottawa Regional Cancer Foundation fundraiser on Saturday — something his older colleagues in the Senate aren't as able to do.

He often takes ideological fights with "leftists" to Twitter, engaging in flame wars with citizens, politicians and journalists.

"I'm certainly not a rebel, but I'm certainly not afraid of answering back in a factual manner as much as I can," he said.

Brazeau said he also uses social media to encourage young people — especially aboriginal youth — to get involved in politics.

"It's doubly hard to engage aboriginal youth," he said. "Aboriginal youth feel as though they are selling out to mainstream Canada and they may feel assimilated.

"I think it's the exact opposite effect. The more people who become engaged, it can only mean a better life for them."

JESSICA SMITH/METRO

Credibility

"I would hope that any youth would listen to any politician who would have a good and positive message, but I think that the fact that I am a little bit younger than most of my colleagues, it lends a little bit of credibility."

Patrick Brazeau
On engaging youth

Young Liberal MP fights to be more than a younger version of his dad. Developing own expertise, own sense of identity is important whatever field you go into: Justin Trudeau

Justin Trudeau certainly isn't the youngest MP kicking around the House of Commons these days. But no matter what his age, he will always be perceived as a younger version of his dad.

Except that's the comparison Trudeau is trying to distance himself from, looking to make his own mark in his third year as Liberal MP for Papineau.

"I bring my own aspects to politics on my own merits and I think that's very, very important for any young person going into any field — that they be able to develop their own expertise, their own sense of identity," said Trudeau, 40.

So what makes him stand out from his slightly older peers on Parliament Hill?

For one, he said voting isn't "cool" and doesn't want to make it appear cool either.

"You don't make voting cool, that's where everyone has failed," he said. "What you have to do is make voting important to young people. Make them understand that their voices matter."

Trudeau — who has more than 120,000 Twitter followers — said he can do that by engaging youth through social media.

A Twitter campaign is just the start, though. He said he wants to mobilize youth in the streets to get them more interested in politics.

JOE LOFARO/METRO

Mobilization

"If youth voted to 80 per cent turnout the way seniors vote to 80 per cent turnout, we'd never have another conversation about tuition fees in Parliament ever."

Justin Trudeau
On the youth vote

Justin Trudeau outside Parliament in Ottawa. SEAN MCKIBBON/METRO

Niki Ashton. CONTRIBUTED

Young NDP MP made a bid for party leadership. Being at the forefront encourages others to get involved: Niki Ashton

Niki Ashton isn't part of any literal boxing matches, but she stepped up as a contender in her party's biggest title bout — the race to replace Jack Layton.

Ashton sometimes — but not always — got more attention for her youth than her ideas in her NDP leadership bid.

"Some people looked at my age and thought it was a plus, and some people looked beyond my age," said the 29-year-old MP for Churchill, adding she's happy to be a standard-bearer for young Canadians.

"We've been told that we're the generation that may live less well-off than our parents, and I find that statement unacceptable," Ashton said. "I mean, we've got tremendous wealth, tremendous opportunity in our country and there's no reason we should be less well-off."

Ashton acknowledged young people are less likely to vote, but they're easier to reach through social media and issue-based campaigns. Seeing more people their age in politics, she said, also helps.

"More young people get involved when they see young people at the forefront and speaking out on the issues that matter," she said. "Our party, I'm proud to say, is one where if you turn on the TV and watch Parliament, we actually look like Canada. The same cannot be said for other parties that have very little representation from young people or women or the diversity of Canada."

STEVE COLLINS/FOR METRO

Visibility

"Jack Layton inspired many people, many young people particularly, to come out and be part of the process, and that's something that I very much want to continue."

Niki Ashton
On engaging youth

Be sure to go to metronews.ca for coverage of the Trudeau-Brazeau boxing match happening at the Hampton Inn in Ottawa at 8:30 p.m. Metro columnist Steve Collins will also be live tweeting the fight @metrottawa.

Meet Canada's youngest MPs

SEAN MCKIBBON/METRO

#1

Pierre-Luc Dusseault

NDP—Sherbrooke

Age 20

#2

Charmaine Borg

NDP—Terrebonne-Blainville

Age 21

#3

Mylène Freeman

NDP—Argenteuil-Papineau-Mirabel

Age 22

#4

Michelle Rempel

Con.—Calgary Centre-North

Age 31

#5

Pierre Poilievre

Con.—Nepean-Carleton

Age 32

#6

Andrew Scheer

Con.—Regina-Qu'Appelle

Age 32

#7

Scott Andrews

Lib.—Avalon

Age 37

#8

Jean-François Fortin

BQ.—Haute-Gaspésie-La Mitis-Matane-Matapédia

Age 38

#9

Justin Trudeau

Lib.—Papineau

Age 40

#10

Scott Simms

Lib.—Bonavista-Gander-Grand Falls-Windsor

Age 42

Everything old was once young too — including Parliament's Rat Pack

Old politicians were young once, too, and it's perhaps no surprise that many older prominent politicians in office (and some out of office) were once also hailed as the new young bucks of their day.

Following the Liberal party's defeat in the 1984 election to Brian Mulroney, a group of young and then relatively unknown Liberals gained prominence and was dubbed the Rat Pack. The group included Don Boudria, Sheila Copps, Brian Tobin and John Nunziata.

The Liberal party's Rat Pack, from left, Brian Tobin, Don Boudria, Sheila Copps and John Nunziata joke with then-Opposition leader John Turner, centre, after giving him a Rat Pack T-shirt in his Parliament Hill office in 1985.
RON POLING/THE CANADIAN PRESS

In the late 1990s a group of Reform-party politicians, Jason Kenney, Rahim Jaffer and Rob Anders, followed in the Rat Pack's footsteps and were dubbed the Snack Pack because of their youth and penchant for eating junk food while talking policy. **METRO**

FOR MORE POLITICAL COVERAGE, VISIT METRONEWS.CA

Questions

Take our MP quiz

Test your MP smarts:

1. With 17 MPs under the age of 30 and an average age of 47.12, the NDP is collectively the youngest party in the House of Commons. Which is the oldest?
2. Pierre-Luc Dusseault (NDP-Sherbrooke) is not only the youngest MP in parliament, but the youngest ever elected in Canada. Who represented his riding on the day he was born?
3. Who is the youngest MP on the Conservative benches?
4. Who's the youngest Liberal?
5. Who is the oldest MP in the House of Commons?
6. The average age of the House dropped even further in February when this 37-year-old MP brought her infant son, Skander-Jack, into the Chamber. Who was she?
7. Speaker of the House Andrew Scheer is the youngest ever elected to the office. What is his official job description?
8. Who is the youngest party leader in the House of Commons?
9. Who is the youngest person ever appointed to the Senate?
10. Youngest minister in the Harper cabinet?

MP quiz answers

How well do you know your MPs?

1. Unless you count the one-member Green party (leader Elizabeth May is 57), the liberals are the oldest party, with an average age of 54.56 years. The Conservative caucus averages 51.91 years.
2. On May 31, 1991, Quebec Premier Jean Charest.
3. Charlotte Rempel (Calgary Centre-North) is the youngest Conservative MP at 31.
4. Scott Andrews (Avalon, Newfoundland and Labrador) is 37.
5. Conservative Ray Boughen (Palliser) is the House of Commons' most senior member at age 74.
6. Sana Hassainia (NDP-Verchères-Les Patriotes). She named Skander-Jack in honour of NDP leader Jack Layton.
7. "Chair Occupant."
8. Prime Minister Stephen Harper, 52.
9. Liberal-Conservative William Miller was 32 when he went to the Red Chamber in 1867. He stayed until his death in 1912 at the age of 77.
10. Heritage Minister James Moore, 35.

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Manufacturing

Toyota investing $80M in Ont. plant

Toyota's Canadian manufacturing arm announced Wednesday it will invest $80 million to increase production at its Woodstock, Ont. assembly plant, a move it says will create 400 new jobs.

Toyota Canada said it will ramp up production of its RAV4 crossover vehicles to 200,000 vehicles at the plant by early 2013, an increase from the current annual capacity of 150,000 vehicles. The facility currently employs about 2,000 workers.

Sales have begun to spring back recently, with Toyota Canada reporting sales rose 31 per cent year-over-year in February.

The company has already announced plans the first Toyota electric vehicle to be built in North America, the RAV4 EV, would be made in Woodstock beginning this year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Bureaucracy to bear brunt of cuts: Flaherty

Federal budget. Conservative sources say spending cutbacks likely to total $7 billion in annual savings by the 2014-15 fiscal year

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty tries on a pair of new shoes Wednesday in Ottawa ahead of his budget delivery Thursday. FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sources and officials agree Flaherty's seventh budget — and first with a parliamentary majority to back it — will be his longest and most far-reaching, laying the foundations for a business-friendly Canada with smaller government and curtailed social entitlements.

The finance minister said much of the burden of cuts will fall primarily on the public service — which will shed tens of thousands of jobs — insisting services to Canadians will be mostly left untouched.

The budget will also seek to curtail long-term spending by slowing the growth of entitlements such as elderly benefits under Old Age Security, building on December's decision to limit future health-care transfers to the growth in the economy.

Reports suggest Flaherty also intends to give notice to the public-service unions they must pay more for their indexed pension plans.

And the CBC will likely see its wings clipped, by anywhere from five to 10 per cent of the annual $1-billion funding.

The House of Commons sent a signal Wednesday of the belt-tightening in store for most, if not all, departments. An all-party committee voted to decrease MPs office expenses by almost seven per cent — $30.3 million — over the next three years.

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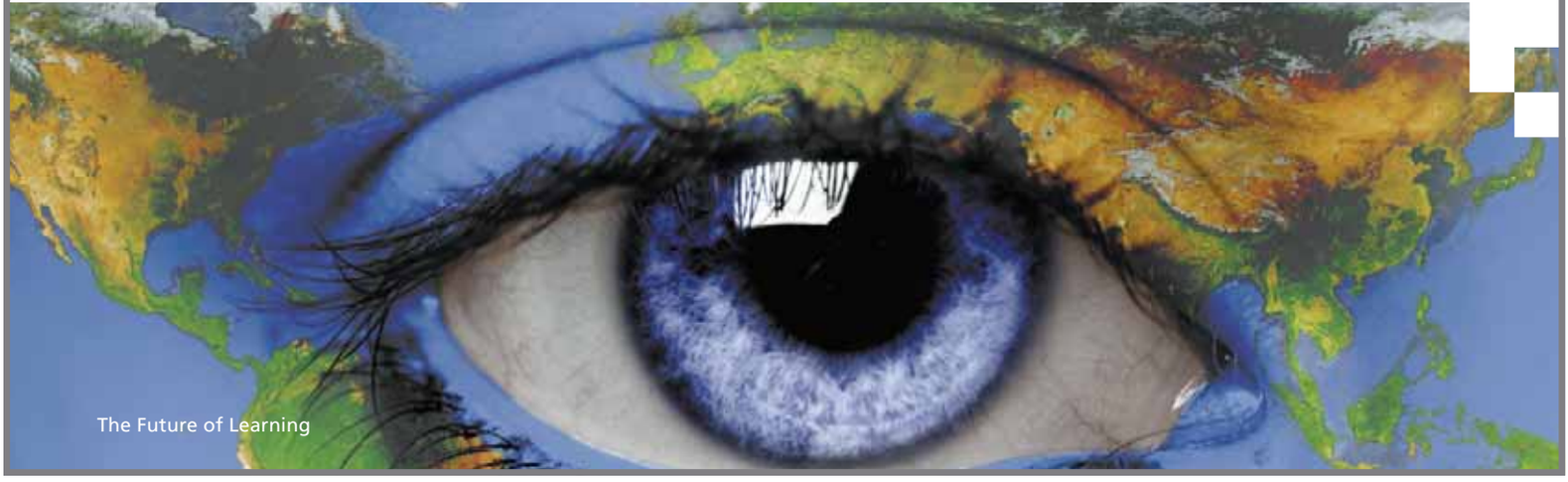

Homeowners sweating over rates: Study

BMO survey. 57 per cent of respondents believe they could still afford their homes if interest rates were to spike by two per cent

Four in 10 Canadians would be unsure about whether they could afford their homes if their mortgage rate went up by as little as two percentage points, according to a new study from the Bank of Montreal.

The survey, compiled for BMO by Leger Marketing, found 43 per cent believe a increase from three per cent to five per cent would either hamper their ability to pay or leave them on unsure footing.

The survey was conducted Feb. 21 to 23, two weeks before BMO sparked a round of special rate reductions among Canadian banks. The survey's results were announced a day before the five-year special rate ended on Wednesday.

Royal, TD and National banks have announced their five-year posted rates will go up on Thursday to 5.44 per cent — an increase of nearly 2.5 percentage points from the sale price.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Moment

DOLLAR
100.21¢ US
(-0.3¢)

TSX 12,413.86 (-98.18)

OIL $105.41 US (-$1.92)

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Natural gas: $2.191 US (-1.7¢)
Dow Jones: 13,126.21 (-71.52)

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REACH DEEPER INTO YOUR POCKETS, MR. FLAHERTY

HE SAYS...
John Mazerolle
metronews.ca/hesays

I'm concerned about the federal budget, which is fortunate because the more concerned I am about something the easier it is to reach my word count.

As I write this, journalists are using all their skills (begging *and* whining) to get "government sources" to tell them budget details before today's official announcement. But I know how it will go:

1) Finance Minister Jim Flaherty will explain that the budget is a fiscally conservative plan (except for the prisons and jets part) and that it will create jobs (except for the jobs-cuts part), and that it shows that Canadians have a bright future (except that we're one step away from DOOM and only the Conservatives can protect us).

2) The opposition leaders will, using talking points they wrote three weeks ago, explain that Flaherty has the same moral standing as, say, Satan, and that the budget document is the worst thing they've read since Twilight.

3) The opposition will vote for it anyway.

I don't know about you, but this era of deep cuts is starting to get me down.

There's the world economic collapse, where countries like Greece decide they can't have nice things anymore and burn them.

There's provincial woes, where places like Ontario have budget speeches that read like eulogies.

And in Toronto, where I live, the only thing approaching economic good news is when sports fans win free pizza because the Raptors score 100 points. (Rumour has it the Leafs have a similar promotion, but it's been lost to the mists of time).

It's getting to the point where we should really give up on the tradition of finance ministers buying new shoes on budget day. Instead, he or she should pose for newspapers with a nice, shiny axe.

I'm trying to take a pragmatic, level-headed approach to the cuts, which is why I offer the following advice to Mr. Flaherty. Forgive me if this is trite, but I think the government should — this is important, write it down — wear a lot of jackets.

I'll explain. I, like Canada itself, am in debt up to my earmuffs. But I just made some money back, as I do every spring, because I pulled out a spring jacket and discovered a crisp $5 bill. Pretty sweet.

Clearly, all MPs should carry the federal coffers in their jacket pockets. Then wait till next spring and reap the surprise windfall.

This works so well for me that I'm thinking about getting more jackets to increase my return. I'm pretty sure Ben Bernanke does this as well.

Frankly, Mr. Flaherty, I see this as our only hope. If you don't agree, I'll be deeply concerned. At least until I hit my word count.

Now.

RENE JOHNSTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

What goes up...

GEOFFREY ROBINSON/REX FEATURES

Off course

Teen pilot flies balloon into pylon

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE, U.K. Three people were saved by rescue crews after a hot-air balloon dramatically crashed into 132,000-volt power cables. Freakish winds sent teen pilot Adam Griffiths and his two companions toward overhead lines near the village of Bozeat, some 100 kilometres north-west of London. **MWN**

Hanging on a wire

"There was a bang and a little bit of a fire in the basket, but it put itself out as I went to grab the extinguisher. We slid down the power line and came to a standstill."

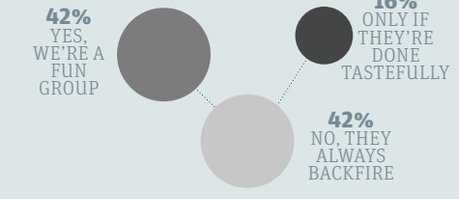
PILOT ADAM GRIFFITHS
WHO SUFFERED MINOR BURNS

Hot-air boom

- **In numbers:** The trio were dangling from the overhead lines 13 metres above the ground for five hours, while emergency teams worked to switch off power lines.
- **How they passed the time:** The stranded balloonists played I Spy as they waited to be rescued. "But after we had 'g' for 'grass' and 'p' for 'pylon' we didn't have many more ideas," Griffiths said.

Metropolitan Panel **Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll**

Do you do any April Fool's Day pranks at your work?



Twitter

@TeenageVFX: Rihanna and Ashton Kutcher?! Let Mortal Kombat commence!

@szandbergen: Roadtrip! Millions of dollars worth of loonies and toonies spills on northern Ontario highway

@aliclarke: loonies, toonies AND candy - get me North. STAT #laundrymoney

@mfiume: I just read that Youtube didn't exist the last time the leafs made the playoffs. :(

@KristofTO: No one seem to be happy with the #Budget. Some say it goes too far, some say it doesn't go far enough. But most don't wants an elxn #onpoli

@TheRounder: Love driving around my city and seeing vehicles with @Raptors license plates! :) #Raptors #RapsCity #Toronto

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Playwright is hands-on when it comes to his work

Collaborator. Daniel MacIvor takes on many roles to get his work to the stage, and isn't afraid to call in help

BACKSTAGE PASS
Ian Gormely
scene@metronews.ca

While he remains one of Canada's most pre-eminent playwrights, Daniel MacIvor's need to collaborate has pushed him to try his hand at a variety of roles in both the theatre and on-screen.

For example, in between doing press for his latest composition, Was Spring, the jack-of-all-trades was blocking his actor's movements.

"I'm trying not to block it," he quips. ""Its more of a psychological reality than a physical reality."

MacIvor both wrote and directed the play, which he describes as three generations of women trying to work through a tragedy. "How do we deal with tragedy?" he says. "The only way out is through."

This hands-on approach is MacIvor's favoured method. Early on in his 25-year career, he found that his scripts weren't capturing the imaginations of directors and producers.

"People didn't get the page, but they got the stage," he says. "I needed to show them."

In response, he founded the da da Kamera production troupe. Eschewing traditional theatre roles, da da Kamera put individual egos aside and focused on the final product.

"As a playwright I needed to become a producer," he admits in retrospect. An actor by training, he learned the rest of his skills on the fly. "I came to it by doing it."

One of the troupe's founding members was Caroline Gillis, one of Was Spring's three stars. "The first play I'm known for was for Caroline so she'd move from Halifax to Toronto," he says, noting that he prefers mixing his work and his personal life.

"We need to choose the people we work with," he says.

"How do I get to work with the people I really care about?

"If one approaches it from that point of view, one will be far more satisfied."

Was Spring. April 4- May 6. Tarragon Theatre Extra Space, 30 Bridgman Ave. $23-$30.

Asking for help

Despite being one of the highest regarded playwrights in the country, MacIvor has recently struck up a relationship with dramaturge Iris Turcott, who acts as a kind of story editor. "She's been encouraging me to not make my opinions the opinions of the characters." MacIvor says that he fell into the working relationship but has found it incredibly fruitful. "I believe that the play knows more than I do, it's my job to get out of the way," he says. "She can see the play past me. My works are getting better as a result."

Daniel MacIvor is a jack-of-all trades when it comes to theatre. HANDOUT

2

SCENE

Scene in brief

Bee Gees star in hospital after surgery

Bee Gees star Robin Gibb has undergone further surgery following a sustained illness, a publicist said Wednesday. Gibb is recovering in the hospital after intestinal surgery over the weekend and has been forced to cancel a number of commitments, publicist Doug Wright said. Gibb is slated to attend the Royal Philharmonic's premiere performance of The Titanic Requiem in London on April 10, and will perform a new song, Don't Cry Alone. Gibb, 62, was hospitalized late last year for stomach and colon problems, but told the BBC last month he was making a good recovery. He did not disclose the nature of his illness, but said a growth on his colon had been removed.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

Canadian DJ Deadmau5, Madonna declare a truce on Twitter

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Alyssa Reid will perform her hit single Alone Again at the Juno awards this weekend. HANDOUT/JEREMY CHAN

From fetching java to just plain fetching

Alyssa Reid. Singer talks about juggling a regular teen life with the life of a Juno performer

Between getting bruised on the rugby field, pouring java at Tim Hortons, finishing high school and touring Canada, Ontario-based singer-songwriter Alyssa Reid realized something had to give.

"I was kind of trying to have the teenage girl life and the teenage pop star life and they kind of don't mix very well, especially when you're joining sports teams and then going on tour two weeks later covered in bruises," the 19-year-old said.

Quoted

"I was kind of trying to have the teenage girl life and the teenage pop star life and they kind of don't mix very well." Singer-songwriter Alyssa Reid

"I went on a tour called the SodaPOP tour and I could not wear a dress the entire tour because I was covered head to toe in bruises. It was not a good scene and I do not play rugby anymore." Nor does she work at Tim Hortons anymore, a job she held down for a year and a half while she toured with the likes of pop/dance artist Danny Fernandes and R&B/hip-hopper JRDN.

The high-school graduate can now focus on her soaring music career, which has seen her get a 2012 Juno nomination for new artist of the year. Other nominees include JRDN, Dan Mangan, Diamond Rings, and Lindi Ortega.

Reid will also perform her hit pop/hip-hop single, Alone Again, at the Ottawa bash on Sunday in what she calls a "live mash-up" between five pop acts. The tune, a new interpretation of the 1987 Heart hit Alone, features P. Reign and is on Reid's upcoming album The Game, due out on June 21.

"I did not think when we released Alone Again that it was going to have the reaction it did," said Reid, who got a 2011 MuchMusic Video Award nomination for best pop video for the tune. "So to get to be travelling the world and going to the Junos and performing at the Junos is a pretty overwhelming thing."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Servitude. Joe DiNicol finds the funny in the restaurant industry

ADAM NAYMAN
scene@metronews.ca

In Muchmusic's The L.A. Complex, Joe DiNicol plays a wannabe stand-up comedian struggling to break into the business; in the new comedy Servitude, he's an aspiring writer who waits tables at a garish Western-themed restaurant while nursing his personal blog. If it's not exactly a case of art imitating life, it's also not that far from the truth. "I've been very lucky to work as much as I have, says the 29-year-old Stratford-born actor, "but over the last seven years, I have had to work in restaurants to make ends meet."

His experiences are hardly unique among the cast of Servitude. DiNicol says that most of his co-stars could relate to their characters' experiences refilling drinks and bussing tables.

"It's easier to look back fondly on it when you're doing what you love for a living, he says, "as opposed to [when you're actually doing it], having drinks at the end of the shift and steaming about your experiences in the restaurant industry. Because we were making a movie about it, it was a bit of a celebration. It was very cathartic. We were all able to use our experiences to the benefit of the movie."

Quoted

"It's easier to look back fondly on it when you're doing what you love for a living."

Actor Joe DiNicol on working in the service industry to make ends meet.

With its crude dialogue and gross-out visual jokes, Servitude is a broad comedy, which DiNicol says suits him just fine.

"I come from a family of hams," he laughs, and he means it: his grandfather was the great Canadian stage actor John Neville. But he also points out that Servitude tries to balance its gags against an affirmative attitude about the service industry — that for all of its exaggerated jokes about rude customers and gross working conditions, it's actually affectionate about its chosen milieu.

"That's one of the most important things about the movie, that it says this is not a profession to be looked down on or condescended to. I've worked with people whose knowledge of food and wine is legendary, and whose ability to handle people of all sorts is quite astounding."

Joe DiNicol stars in Servitude, which opens on Friday. HANDOUT

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RANDOM HOUSE CANADA

Showing some love to La Belle Ville

TV. Celebrity chef Anthony Bourdain loves Montreal's 'uniquely crazy' food

When celebrity chef Anthony Bourdain was compiling his list of international cities to feature on the TV show The Layover, Montreal was a no-brainer for inclusion.

That's because the city's cuisine is "uniquely crazy, uniquely individualistic and rugged and excessive and wonderful," according to the New York City native.

"It says Canada to me," he added during a recent telephone interview.

The premise behind the The Layover was simple but highly challenging: Bourdain spent between 24 and 48 hours in each of 10 cities and packed in as much hard living as the liver and the rest of his body could take.

Viewers are taken off the beaten track as Bourdain, who has also written several books and stars in Anthony Bourdain: No Reservations, shows them where to visit and where to stay around the globe.

The Montreal episode also includes debate on whether its bagels are better than New York's, as well as adventures involving dragon boats and surfing on the St. Lawrence River.

"We were looking to do something fast and different, and a little scary, something that challenged and pushed us," says the 55-year-old.

But was it fun?

"Most of the time," is his immediate reply.

"It was difficult. Essentially, it's eight days of serious eating and drinking compressed into two (for the purposes of) the show.

Anthony Bourdain PETER KRAMER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"That's tough. It was very physically demanding and a little intimidating, a little frightening to embark on a bold new venture like that, especially when you're eating and drinking as much as I was."

The series has aired in the United States and gets its Canadian debut on Travel + Escape on April 11. The Montreal episode is set for broadcast May 2.

Bourdain has fond memories of Montreal dating back to a book tour in 2001 when local chefs took him under their wing.

"I knew we could make a good show there and have a good time doing it. It's my favourite city in Canada.

"I love the chefs there," he says, ringing off the names of Martin Picard (Au Pied de Cochon) Normand Laprise (Toque) Frederic Morin and David McMillan (both Joe Beef) as some of the outstanding ones.

"It's the most uniquely Canadian food in Canada. In Vancouver the cuisine is a very strong mix of great Asian food from all over Asia, a lot of great homegrown stuff, but the cuisine in Montreal could exist nowhere else other than Quebec.

"It looks and tastes different from food anywhere else and the chefs, particularly when you're talking about Martin or Fred or Dave, are unlike chefs anywhere else."

Bourdain has plans to do another season of The Layover this summer and Canada's largest city will be getting in on the fare.

"Toronto will be on the list for sure," he says of a city he has visited several times but never featured on any of his shows.

Bourdain says that when he talks to journalists and chefs from elsewhere in Canada, he always hears trash talk about Toronto.

"I feel sort of an obligation to highlight that there is indeed good food there and good people, as I know from personal experience," he says. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Not a ‘sweetie-darling-honey-baby book’

Reading. Frank Langella dishes about ex-lovers, villains and the famous in his memoir

The phone at Frank Langella’s home rings and rings, unanswered. The very private three-time Tony Award winner apparently is not willing to answer questions about his debut book.

Oh, wait: It turns out he has inadvertently given out the number for his fax machine.

“We’ll talk to Dr. Freud about that sometime,” he jokes when the right number is called and he gets on the line.

It turns out that Langella, fresh off the Broadway revival of Terence Rattigan’s Man and Boy, would very much like to talk about his literary debut, the memoir Dropped Names: Famous Men and Women as I Knew Them, which went on sale this week.

The book is a collection of 66 impressionistic sketches of movie stars, social celebrities, Broadway icons, politicians and writers, including John F. Kennedy, George C. Scott, Tip O’Neill, Bette Davis, Jill Clayburgh and Charlton Heston. All but one are dead.

There are stories of dating Elizabeth Taylor, streaking in front of Sir Laurence Olivier, playing Scrabble with Paul Mellon and being wooed by both Noel Coward and Roddy McDowall (neither attempt succeeded, he writes). He and Marilyn Monroe shared just one word, but it changed his life.

Langella plumbs his long career, which has put him in arm’s reach of many famous people. He’s gone from a sexy Dracula, Cyrano and Sherlock Holmes to a mature Richard Nixon in Frost/Nixon onstage and on-screen, Sir Thomas More in A Man for All Seasons and Perry White in Superman Returns.

Quote

“I was religious about making certain that I often showed the worst of my nature.”

Frank Langella

Not all the celebrities come off well, including Richard Burton (“Could anyone, I wondered, be so unaware of what a crashing bore he had become?”), Anthony Quinn (“a big bully”) and Paul Newman (“emotionally vacant”).

Langella also doesn’t spare himself. He acknowledges being a terrible boor around Deborah Kerr and Dinah Shore, did something “unforgivable” to Jackie Kennedy and is wistful about being a lover to a faded Rita Hayworth, saying she was “the single most tragic example of how far from the real person an image can be.” He calls Cutthroat Island one of his worst films, “the single most egregious example of excess I have ever witnessed in the movie world.”

“I really felt very strongly that I wasn’t going to write a sweetie-darling-honey-baby book,” he says. “Most celebrities’ biographies I read I can’t get through — they’re either immensely self-raising or absolutely whitewashing.”

Langella says he sought out permission from relatives and intimate friends of his subjects before publishing.

“I’ve chosen to write my memories — as I recall them — as honestly as I could,” he says. “None of it was meant to be coy or a tease.”

One of the most touching chapters — and one of Langella’s favourites — is about Cameron Mitchell, a one-time leading man who by the mid-1970s had turned into a “fat, jowly mess, covering his sad decline with an over-the-top wisecracking demeanour.”

In one story, Langella writes that fellow actors teased Mitchell by spinning him around in a too-small jacket.

“I’ve never forgotten the look in his eyes. I’ve never forgotten the sad, broken terror when everyone around him was just laughing their heads off, thinking how funny it was,” Langella says.

“That’s around the corner for everybody if we don’t watch out. I suppose that chapter means a lot to me because of the ephemeralness of life and also the ephemeralness of my profession.”

Langella says there are so many people who didn’t make the cut in the book that he’s already considering a second volume of Dropped Names.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Frank Langella
ED OU/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Justin Bieber

Bieber's phone prank lands him in hot water again

Justin Bieber's latest Twitter antics are causing him some legal trouble.

Bieber posted a random phone number — minus the final digit — and wrote: "Call me right now."

Two Texas residents reportedly received more than 1,000 phone calls and are now suing the Canadian pop star for damages due to "reckless behaviour," according to Hollyscoop.

What kind of damages are we talking about? Millions? No.

They're reportedly after tickets to a Bieber concert, an apology and an endorsement of an online business run by one of the plaintiffs, among other things.

Twitter

@ParisHilton
At the airport about to take off to Sydney! Haven't been to Australia in a long time, so I'm very excited for this trip! Love it there!

@jimmyfallon
I once was talked into getting a perm. (I was in college & it was free.)

@katyperry
don't believe in the hype.

@SethMacFarlane
There's nothing more grungy-looking than a red-headed person in a '70s movie.

The Word

She's a smooth operator. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

What is going on with Bethenny Frankel's marriage?

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

There are few reality TV stars who know how to game the system as well as Bethenny Frankel.

Her ambition is awe-inspiring: She's risen from a throwaway contestant on 2005's The Apprentice: Martha Stewart, to, despite not being married, one of the original five "housewives" on The Real Housewives of New York City.

From there, she wrote several New York Times bestselling books, starred in two spin-offs, Bethenny Getting Married? and Bethenny Ever After, and founded the company Skinnygirl Cocktails, which she sold last year for an alleged $120 million dollars.

But is she so driven that she's letting her marriage to husband Jason Hoppy suffer?

That's what In Touch is reporting. They say that Hoppy has moved out of their New York City apartment and is staying at a nearby hotel. They report that Hoppy is claiming he ditched the $5 million Tribeca condo he shares with Frankel and their 23-month-old daughter, Bryn, because of renovations.

But a source thinks he also left because he's fed up with Bethenny's diva behaviour.

"The fighting has gotten worse," the source tells In Touch.

Apparently, Frankel has become overly obsessed with the launch of her L.A.-based talk show.

"Her energy has been nervous and neurotic," the source says. "He can't take it anymore, so he's been doing everything on his own."

Or, this drama could just be fabricated in order for fans to train their attention back on Frankel in time for her talk show, set to launch in September.

She's witchy that way.

Lindsay Lohan

Lindsay Lohan facing another legal battle

With her probation set to end today, Lindsay Lohan is bracing as another legal battle heats up.

Thaer Kamal has reportedly handed over surveillance footage he claims shows the actress hitting him with her car and then driving away outside a Hollywood hookah lounge, according to Radar Online. And Kamal's lawyers may be interested in more than just a hit-and-run investigation, as reports recently surfaced that Kamal has a history of insurance fraud, something he vehemently denies.

"Thaer feels that Lindsay's camp has bullied him by making up stories that he was being investigated for insurance fraud," a source says. "(His lawyers) will be investigating who made those false statements about Thaer being the focus of insurance fraud investigations and will take the appropriate legal action against those responsible for the false and defamatory comments if necessary."

Megan Fox

Megan Fox rumoured to be pregnant

After answering a slew of parenting-related questions while promoting Friends with Kids, Megan Fox is reportedly expecting her first child with husband Brian Austin Green, according to Star magazine.

"They just found out," a source claims, "And are incredibly excited."

The happy couple won't be sharing the news just yet, though, the source warns. "It's still early, so they are only telling close friends and family members."

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SHOPPERS DRUG MART

Trend of the week: white vs. floral brights

Fashion fight. Which trend will win in this spring style dust-up?

KENYA HUNT
Metro World News in London

Head-to-toe white in London... MICHELLE BOBB-PARRIS

And in Paris. KARL-EDWIN GUERRE

Bright florals spotted on the street in Paris... GIIA TONICS

And in Milan. GIIA TONICS

Forget about the magazines for a second, and let's talk about the trends that women are actually wearing.

When it comes to updating your wardrobe for spring, there seems to be two schools of thought emerging on the street.

In the right corner: Team White. This is a look that is painfully easy to pull off (hurrah) and reliably chic.

A win-win, no? The trick is to wear it head-to-toe — like, ivory trousers and a matching blazer as a fashion forward update on the work suit or white shorts and a co-ordinating button-down as a light way to ease into spring. Just don't eat any condiments with your lunch that day.

And in the left: Team Floral Brights — a look that was adopted by practically every fashion editor during last month's ready-to-wear shows. You can take the whole-hog approach by mixing them in different colour ways and layering them on generously or just dip one toe into the trend pool by limiting the print to a single pair of jeans or a skirt—the bolder the colour, the better.

Team White

H&M

Leather vest
$199, HM.COM

Team White

Mango

Tailored trouser
$63, ASOS.COM

Team Floral Brights

Carin Wester

Blouse
$150 PIXIEMARKET.COM

Team Floral Brights

Goldsign

Jeans
$225, NETAPORTER.COM

Team Floral Brights

Elizabeth and James

Pajama pants
$325, SHOPBOP.COM

NEED A RIDE?
Read metrodrive every Wednesday.

3 LIFE

Fashion flash

Emerging icon

The Hunger Games star Jennifer Lawrence is not only replacing Kristen Stewart as Hollywood's most popular teen heroine, but she's out dressing her too. And that Vogue cover will be coming in three, two...

Attention needed

Katy Perry and Karl Lagerfeld's man, Baptiste Giabiconi, have been "sneaking" around for all the paparazzi to "catch." Yawn and snore. We think Baptiste did a better acting job in those Magnum commercials.

Shoe lift

Espadrilles are a vacation staple, but colour-blocked flats demand to be seen on the city streets as well. It's all about yellow ankle straps, which lift the shoe miles above the $10 ones you scored in Spain.

METRO WORLD NEWS

On the Web

Everyday glamour — a la 'Gatsby' — returns as favourite fashion look for spring.

Twitter

JEANNE SPACE
Jeanne Beker
life@metronews.ca

IN THIS HECTIC MODERN WORLD, TWITTER HAS BECOME A COOL AND SUCCINCT WAY OF COMMUNICATING. IT ALLOWS ME TO BE ACCESSIBLE, INSTANTLY SPEAK MY MIND, AND CONNECTS ME WITH ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE. WHETHER IT'S A FASHION QUESTION OR YOU JUST WANT TO COMMENT ON LIFE'S BIGGER PICTURE, I'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU.

@Jeanne_Beker: How many prs of shoes does one really need to take on a beach vacation? Flip flops, sneakers, wedges, stilettos.. + how many of each? Arghh!

@Joanna242
Leave the sneakers behind and pack a couple of extra pairs of sexy sandals...
@Jeanne_Beker
But what if I want to hit the tennis court? Or go for a sail???

@jamillahross
Barbados is very fashionable. I'd pack more shoes, not less.
@Jeanne_Beker
Good advice!!!

@Jeanne_Beker: Overlooking The Crane beach...out for a pre-dinner cocktail with @qualityslippers + @joeyoneil

@Jeanne_Beker:Barbados: Heaven on earth! My terrace at The Crane. Savouring EVERY second. And I just got here!!!

@Jeanne_Beker: Just been offered a rum punch at 9:30 am! Where else but on a Catamaran "Cool Runnings" cruise?

@sarahleeswagger
try pasoã, it will electrify your taste buds - i promise.

@DanielRWilson
I trust you said yes. Only to be polite, really.

@fashionNE
I would kill for some of that rum punch right now, feels like a Monday morning here in the real world

TUNE INTO FASHION TELEVISION EVERY SUNDAY AT 5:30 P.M. (ET) ON CTV.

JEANNE BEKER'S FINDING MYSELF IN FASHION (PENGUIN) IS AVAILABLE IN BOOKSTORES NATIONWIDE.

A leg up on the bolds and brights

Bottoms up. Ditch those dull blue jeans in exchange for some extra loud leg-wear

Your attention, please: One of the easiest ways to spruce up your wardrobe this spring is with a splash of colour. It doesn't have to go on your lips or over your shoulder — and not across your chest, either. This season, the place for bold colour is on the bottom.

Coloured denim and, by extension, every other kind of pants and trousers in hues as bright as the rainbow, are a key look in stores at every end of the shopping spectrum. Part of the pervasiveness is that it's pretty democratic: You find the shape and silhouette that you like best and find the shade that best complements your skin tone. Swap out blue or khaki and, voila, you're on trend.

Think of it as you would a fresh coat of paint.

Colour on colour? Yes please!
AMERICAN EAGLE OUTFITTERS/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"You can't deny what's going on with colour," says Daniel Guez, CEO and creative director of the upscale denim label Dylan George. "Everyone can participate in this."

Yes, bright yellow bottoms might seem a little intimidating at first, says Tana Ward, American Eagle's chief merchandising officer, but adds, "We see coloured bottoms as easy to wear, believe it or not."

Reverse whatever outfit you would have worn before, she suggests: Instead of jeans and a bold pink or red top, put the colour on the bottom and pair it with a denim chambray shirt — maybe even a western style — or go for a little femininity with a white lace tank top peeking out the top of a crisp white or blue button-down. You're also likely to find an easy transition into crocheted or other loose-weave sweaters in natural, neutral colours, too, Ward says.

However, she adds, while there are many user-friendly ways to wear coloured pants, don't expect any of them to go unnoticed. Turning a few heads is the point, Ward says, and eventually you'll gain the confidence to put the bright top with the bright bottom. "Being bold is very modern ... and the most modern way to do this is colour on colour. Wear the unexpected — a red bottom, tangerine tank and cobalt blue cardigan." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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** Offer valid only on regular size Biosource and Biocils cleansing products, except Biosource Exfoliating Gel, Biosource Cleansing Oil and Biocils Lash Optimizer.

Fresh faced. Spring into the coming season with a few treats for your visage

While you spruce up your wardrobe for spring, give your cosmetics accoutrements a refresh as well.

BY JANINE FALCON, THE KIT.CA

Point Taken

You're only as precise as your tools. Sephora Pencil Sharpeners have a swing-out well to keep shavings neatly out of your kit. $6, sephora.com. Tweezerman Tweezers are pro favourites for getting at the tiniest strays. $30,sephora.com/canada

Eye Opener

Replace that old, loose lash curler you've had forever. The Sephora Lash Curler comes in peppy metallic colours and gives a really good curve with its silicone pad. $19. Or try the Dior Heated Lash Wand instead. $31, both at Sephora.

It's a Wash

Making up should always be good clean fun. Occasionally spritz Beauty So Clean Cosmetic Sanitizer Mist directly onto powder shadows, blushes and foundation to blitz bacteria build-up — it won't hurt the finish. $13, at drugstores and beautysoclean.com.

Clinique Makeup Brush Cleanser is handy when you don't have time for a thorough wash session. $17, clinique.ca.

Quo Toe Separators aren't just for your toes — they're also for brushes after you wash them. Watch the video to catch our drift. $3.29, Shoppers Drug Mart.

GET ALL THE LATEST BEAUTY KNOW-HOW WAT THE KIT INTERACTIVE MAGAZINE, AT THEKIT.CA

Men's grooming

Bottled bliss

Acqua Di Parma
$111

A dip into Capri's culture of sun, sea and orange groves sounds like the perfect package right now. Not that cologne can compare to a much-needed vacation. It doesn't. But Acqua di Parma's new Mediterranean-inspired Arancia di Capri might be the thing that inspires you to book a flight. The fragrance has a citrus top (orange, mandarin and lemon) and a bottom of caramel and musk notes. See? Vacation perfect. MWN

The very best of Queen West

A rendering of The Carnaby condominiums. CONTRIBUTED

Meet the condo

- **What.** The Carnaby Lofts by Streetcar Development and Dundee Realty
- **Check it.** 11 Peel Ave., carnabylofts.com, 416-690-9009
- **Pricing.** From 491 to 829 sq. ft., From the mid-$200,000s

The project overview

The Carnaby takes its inspiration from Carnaby Street in London's west end. A fab new development in Toronto's eclectic Queen West neighbourhood, the twenty-storey tower will rise above Queen Street near Gladstone Avenue.

Location and transit

Centrally located a block from the Queen Street West streetcar and just minutes to the downtown core. A short jaunt to the Gardiner Expressway for commuters, and a few blocks from the Exhibition GO train station.

In the 'hood

Residents will enjoy the neighbourhood's many vintage shops and indie boutiques, the Gladstone Hotel, The Drake, oysters at Fishbar or late night drinks at the Beaver. Visit the Farmer's Market in Liberty Village or explore the many local art galleries.

Building amenities

Residents will have access to an indoor party and media room and an outdoor terrace. The condo will also have a state-of-the-art and fully-equipped fitness centre, a bar, a full kitchen and a sun lounge complete with bed-sized chaises.

Five-year mortgage rates

FIXED		VARIABLE
2.99%	BMO	3.10%
4.04%	CIBC	3.10%
5.39%	HSBC	3.10%
3.44%	ICICI	3%
3.49%	ING	3.0%
5.24%	RBC	3.10%
5.24%	TD	3.10%
3.99%	SCOTIA	3.10%
2.98%	BROKER	2.75%

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Rooftop surfing

Under construction: 183 high-rise buildings

PAUL GOLINI JR.
Chair of the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD) and can be found at twitter.com/bildgta), (facebook.com/bildgta), and bildblogs.ca.

There are 183 high-rise buildings under construction across the city right now.

That's pretty specific and they're not all residential, according to the City of Toronto's latest economic dashboard report, but the majority are, and we're building more than most major metropolitan cities across North America by leaps and bounds.

The encouraging part is that the latest tally may be a sign that our neighbour to the south is recovering and starting to build again.

Major U.S. cities like Chicago, Houston and Miami are building at a better pace than this time last year. For example, last year Houston only had four high-rise buildings under construction and this month, they've got 23.

Not to brag, but Toronto is beating New York and Chicago, which have 75 and 25 high-rise buildings under construction right now, respectively. If you can believe it, New York's construction activity is actually down from last year, when the city had 95 highrise buildings under construction.

Back at home, the City of Mississauga is on the map with 13 high-rise buildings under construction this month. That's up from seven this time last year.

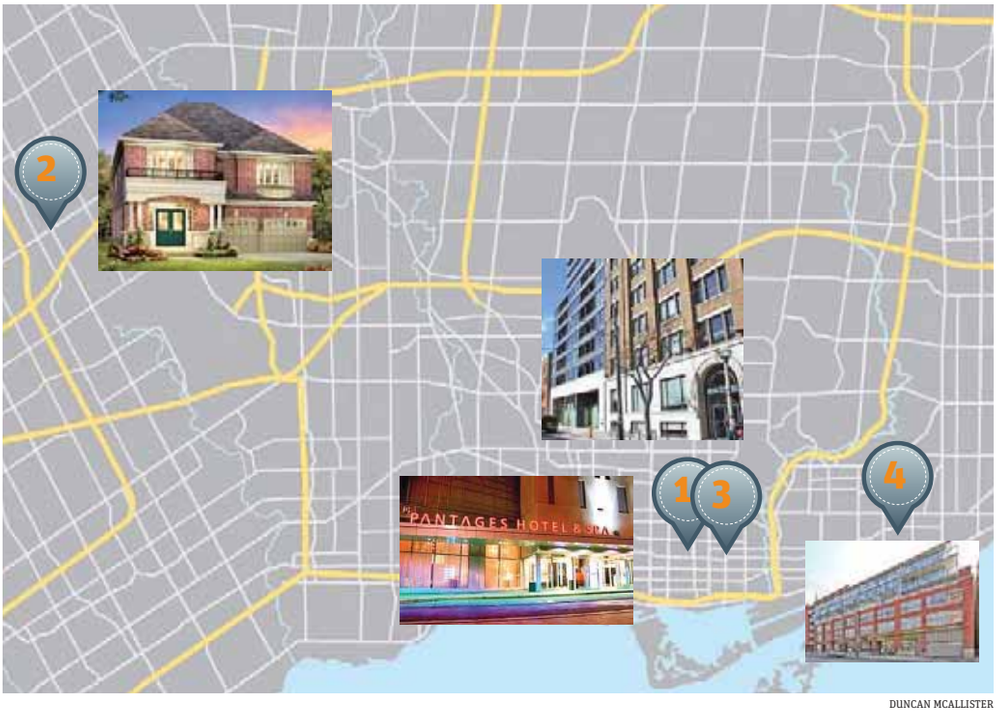
In the City of Toronto, the value of residential building permits was more than $1.1 billion by the end of last year. What that amounts to this year are jobs, jobs, jobs and not only that, but economic spin-off from wages spent and income taxes collected.

And let's not forget that what it all really amounts to is new homes and communities for people like you.

Taking a bite out of the Big Apple

"Not to brag, but Toronto is beating New York and Chicago, which have 75 and 25 high-rise buildings under construction right now, respectively. If you can believe it, New York's construction activity is actually down from last year, when the city had 95 high-rise buildings under construction."
Paul Golini Jr.

What's hot on the condo market?



DUNCAN MCALLISTER

1. The Pantages Hotel

Best in Show

Don't miss The Property Show at the Pantages Hotel, 200 Victoria st., March 31 from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Call 866-299-2910 or visit thepropertyshow.ca

2. Credit Valley Manors

Grand opening

Check out the Credit Valley Manors grand opening at Chinguacousy Road and Queen Street in Brampton, March 31 from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Visit meridanhomes.ca to register

3. Get your Vaughan on

Who wants a Victory?

Head on over to the Victory condo open house at 478 King st. W., Vaughan, March 31 - April 1 from 2-4 p.m., Call 416-762-4200

4. The Beaches

Open house

Make your way to a Beaches condo open house at 601 Kingston rd., March 31 from 2-4 p.m., Call 416-483-4337

For what it's worth

Condo trends. Just how far will your hard-earned money go?

DUNCAN MCALLISTER
scene@metronews.ca

By now, everyone has heard of the most expensive condo sold in Canadian history. That would be the 55th floor, 9,038-square foot condominium penthouse at the Four Seasons hotel and private residences that sold for $28 million last year to a mystery foreign buyer.

Average Joe: But what if you're not an oil baron or jet-setting industrialist? Can you still get a condo in Toronto for $140,000? The answer is yes. Kind of.

There are many affordable units available from resale inventory. These are apartments and condos outside the core that may be 10 to 40 years old. They are quite roomy, but buyer beware; your costs will be high.

According to Shana Bahrami, a realtor affiliated with Right at Home Realty Inc., "I tell my clients you can find them really, really cheap but guess what? The maintenance fee is extremely high so you might as well put that money into a new condo."

Take, for example, a 1,200-square-foot condo-apartment unit listed this week in Etobicoke with an asking price of $135,000. "What a bargain!" you say. But you'll pay $1,230 yearly taxes and $613 in monthly maintenance fees. The building is over 20 years old. At that age, expensive things like elevators, plumbing and masonry wear out long after the building reserve fund has dried up. Maybe it's not such a good deal after all.

This week, Metro looks at four of the hottest GTA condo locations. A little shopping around shows that you need only get out of the downtown core a bit to find affordable new condo living.

MARKET DATA PROVIDED COURTESY OF THEREDPIN.COM BASED UPON LATEST INQUIRIES AND AVAILABLE INVENTORY. RENDERINGS PROVIDED COURTESY OF BUZZBUZZHOMES.COM

Downtown Toronto

- **At the high end.** Aura at College Park, Yonge and Gerrard streets. $18,375,500 for 11,370 square feet. Canderel's Aura is to be one of the tallest condos in Toronto at 78 storeys.
- **At the low end.** Upside-Down condos at 1420 Dupont St. $220,000 for 630 square feet. This Channington Developments unit isn't right downtown, but it's still in the zone.

Richmond Hill

- **At the high end.** Renaissance at Yonge Street and Lorne Avenue. $945,000 for 1,975 square feet. This beautiful new development by Tridel will have only 104 units.
- **At the low end.** Royal Gardens condos at 382 Highway 7, $229,000 for 555 square feet. Scheduled for completion in 2013, this unit is good value for suburban living.

Scarborough

- **At the high end.** Solaris at Metrogate at Kennedy Road and Highway 401 $571,000 for 1,366 square feet. Even at the high end, Scarborough is good value, especially if it's size you're looking for.
- **At the low end.** The Westhill at 4151 Kingston rd. $139,000 for 430 square feet. May not have the sights and sounds of the downtown core, but is still the best deal for new condos in the GTA.

Mississauga

- **At the high end.** The Park Residences at Parkside Village, 465 Burnhamthorpe rd. W. $400,000 for 884 square feet.
- **At the low end.** FirstHome Destination Drive Phase 2 at 3030 Erin Centre blvd. $150,000 for 480 square feet. A new condo and townhouse project by The Daniels Corporation, the FirstHome program helps buyers get into the market at a fair price.

All renderings are artist's concept.

ELEGANT LIVING, EXCELLENT LOCATION — THE STAGE IS SET

Ideally located at the intersection of Sheppard Avenue East and Pharmacy Avenue, Maestro is more than a condominium - it's a performance. Maestro Condominiums is tucked neatly away in the heart of uptown Toronto. It is strategically situated near the future subway/LRT station of the Sheppard subway extension, a key component of the Maestro's integrated business, leisure & lifestyle concept.

Developer: Mutual-Hujade Development Inc.

Architect: KIRKOR architects & planners

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Tricky circumstances

Dealing with a blocked transaction

LEGAL MATTERS
Jeffrey Cowan is the principal of Cowan Law and can be reached by email at jeff@cowanlaw.ca

Q. I have recently entered into an Agreement of Purchase and Sale where I am a silent owner of one per cent of my parents' condominium.

When the purchaser's lawyer did a search of the title, we realized that my ex-wife had issued a Sheriff's writ against me and it formed a lien against the property.

We are now in a process of attempting to have the writ removed but my ex-wife's position is that she wants a settlement (that she was able to get through the courts) and will not remove the writ from title.

What would you suggest in these circumstances?

A. These are very tricky circumstances and a difficult position to be in. Your ex-wife is in a position of power if she has a properly executed Sheriff's writ against your name.

What many people don't know is that if they are involved in Court proceedings and they lose, the successful individual can register the judgment against them and they are essentially stopped from dealing in real estate matters until they settle the debt.

This is not an unusual situation and is a big problem for lawyers with clients who have 'varied' past histories.

You should be as upfront as absolutely possible with all your professional advisors with such history, otherwise you may be faced with a lawsuit for not being able to provide clear title to any property you own, regardless of your allotted share.

Your lawyer is only as good as the information that you provide to them.

Good luck, because your ex has the upper hand in this situation.

Real estate freeze

What many people don't know is that if they are involved in Court proceedings and they lose, the successful individual can register the judgment against them and they are essentially stopped from dealing in real estate matters until they settle the debt.

Jeffrey Cowan, principal of Cowan Law

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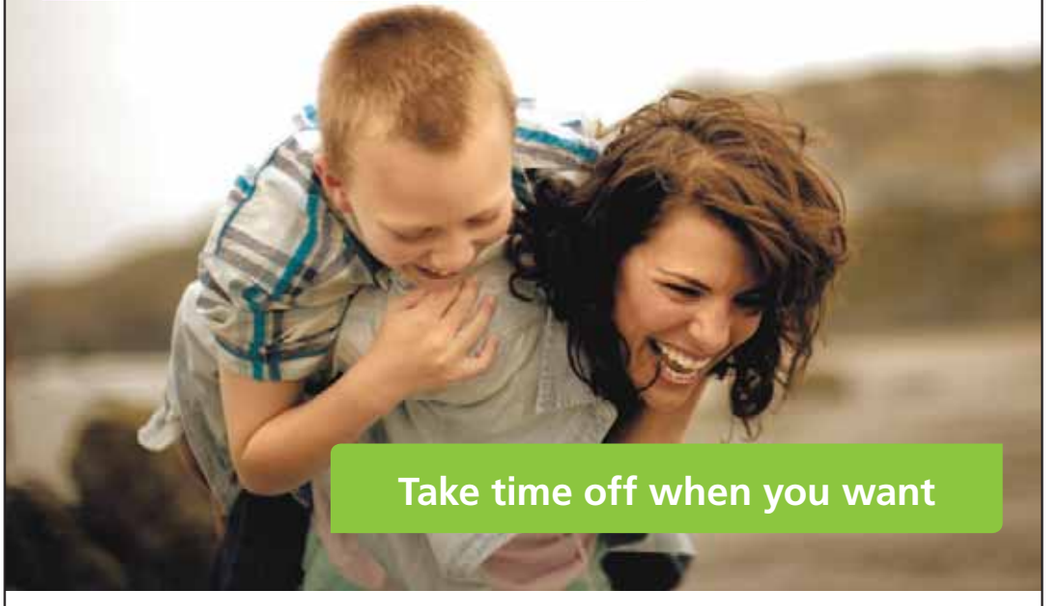

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Charles the butler. Sometimes a lot of hot air can be a great thing

CHARLES THE BUTLER
askcharlesthebutler@metronews.ca
For more, visit charlesmacpherson.com

Dear Charles the butler,
I believe I saw you on television one day speaking about dry cleaning vs. steaming and how steam cleaning is better for a suit, pants, etc...unless they have a stain in which case they should go to the dry cleaners.

I want to buy a steamer (as both myself and my husband wear suits to work every day). I have been doing some research but am not sure which machine I should get. Do you recommend one over another?

I look forward to hearing from you and am very appreciative of any advice you can give me.
Thank you,
Shawn Hamilton

Dear Shawn,

Yes, I do very much advocate steaming natural fibre clothing on a regular basis. It takes out the wrinkles, relaxes the fibres and removes odours as the steam kills bacteria. Steaming a suit regularly is a good thing!

I can honestly say that I love the steamer from Jiffy 2000 Company. I use this machine both in the butler school and in my home. You can buy one at Amazon.ca or at Jiffysteamer.com, or buy it directly from the company in Toronto called Wm. Prager Ltd. on Adelaide Street West. They ship all across Canada.

Finally, once you have your Jiffy Steamer you will need to know how to use it, and, luckily, the company has some great videos on their website.

My advice is to buy a commercial brand steamer (such as the one I mentioned above) because, from my experience, they work better and last longer.

Happy steaming!

Charles the butler

HAVE A QUESTION? SEND AN EMAIL TO ASKCHARLESTHEBUTLER@METRONEWS.CA

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Hard-to-kill house plants

Some people have a toxic touch when it comes to caring for house plants — meaning they forget or don't have time to water them. London-based horticulturalist Carlos Magdalena gives us five low-maintenance species that'll survive almost complete neglect.

METRO WORLD NEWS

1 For the living room: Moth Orchid (Phalaenopsis orchid)

"This produces a beautiful cascade of flowers in different colour varieties and is best placed in shady places. They do tend to die if over-watered, so it's perfect for forgetful types."

2 For the bathroom: Bromeliad (Bromeliaceae)

"Its leaves can be watered via the shower. The flowers in the centre of the plant come in very bright reds and oranges. Although the flowers do not last long, the spike that appears in the middle is an eye-pleaser."

3 For the bedroom: South African violet (Saintpaulia)

"This one would be ideal for the bedroom because it is compact and could fit on a bedside table. It'll survive in low light and it likes to be neglected. You can leave it for over a week without water."

4 For the hallway: Monstera 'The Swiss cheese plant'

"This tropical-looking plant can survive in a low humidity and low light environment," Magdalena says. "It's known as the 'Swiss cheese' plant because of the holes in its leaves. It's a large plant, so it will need a relatively generous space.

5 For the kitchen: Madagascar jasmine (Stephanotis floribunda)

"It's a small plant with a jasmine scent. Stephanotis has thick leaves and requires some water (but don't waterlog), perhaps near the kitchen sink. The one thing to remember with this plant is to keep it away from radiators."

ARTICLE {14}

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Forgo a long sofa and consider individual club chairs in the living room. Tess Chair, $1,380, Crate and Barrel. CRATE AND BARREL

The right-size furniture matters

Decor ideas. A measuring tape is a mover's best friend

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

I am moving into a spacious walk-up apartment. I am concerned that the narrow hallways and stairwells might impede me from getting larger furniture pieces into my space. Any ideas or design tricks?
Tina Daenz, via email.

As a former walk-up apartment renter myself, I know your anxiety around getting furniture up.

Here's a few things you should be cautious of when ordering furnishings, and a few moving solutions I learned.

Ikea Stockholm glass-door cabinet in black, $399. IKEA

Bed

If a king-size bed is your choice then opt for the split-box spring. Each piece is the size of a single box spring, which makes it easy to move around in tight spaces. You can also choose two smaller mattresses (called twin plus), which is great for customizing your comfort level from one side to the other, and still enjoy the size of a king bed. Co-ordinate the split bed with one king-size headboard and bedskirt to give a finished king-size look to the bed.

Couch

If a comfy sofa is just too large to be brought up a skinny staircase, consider a grouping of lightweight, small-scaled club chairs. You'll create a lounge feel with the chairs around a cocktail table or large round ottoman and you'll be seating as many people as if you had the traditional sofa and chair set. Plus, you'll have more flexibility for re-arranging the furniture during holidays and parties (see the Tess Chair, above).

Forget about a sleeper sofa altogether; not only are they heavy, they are usually much deeper in size than a regular sofa (the extra depth helps contain the mattress mechanism).

Cabinets

Armoires and china cabinets too large? Find furnishings that disassemble or can be placed together once inside the desired room. If choosing a china cabinet, make sure it comes in the form of a credenza and hutch; each piece will be easier to move up and down stairs.

You can also purchase three or four smaller cabinets or bookshelves and line them up along a long wall for the look of one large piece of furniture (see the Stockholm Glass Cabinet, left).

Like a 'ship in a bottle'

Here's a list of easily-moved items that can offer big impact and still move easily up the stairs:

- **Area rugs.** Look for colourful, large patterned rugs to fill a room with style.
- **Draperies.** Make small windows look larger by hanging draperies on the dead wall space beside windows.
- **Artwork.** A big mirror or a piece of art helps create a focal point in a room and offers something large-scale without taking up precious floor space.
- **Paint.** If you've got a naturally dark room in your place paint it a dark colour for unexpected drama.
- **Lighting.** Whether you are renting or own your home, new lighting is a great way to make a place feel sexy at night. A single spotlight on a piece of art or a dramatically painted wall washed with light will help create a special mood in your new place.

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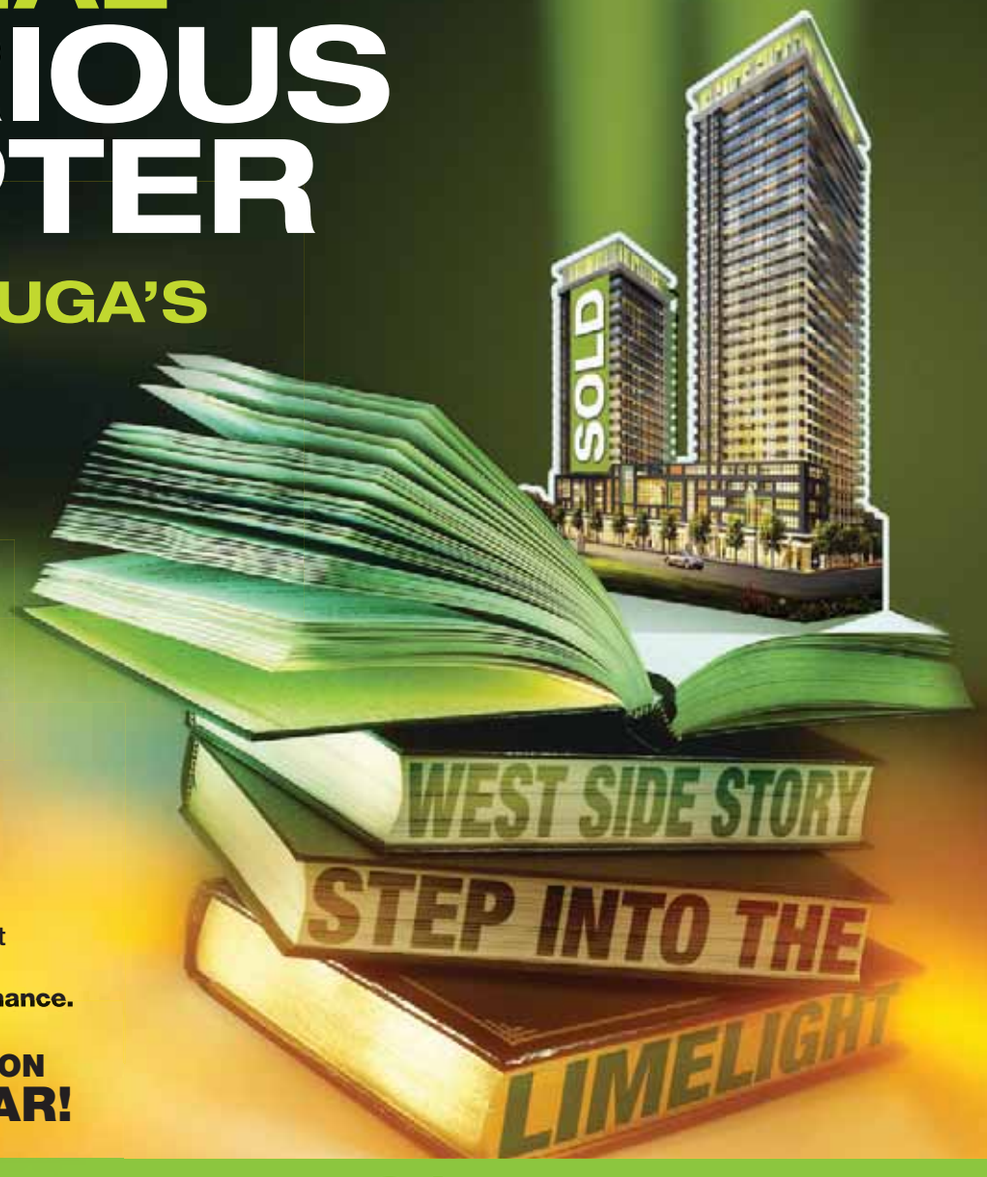

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Make your own fabric coaster with the English paper-piercing method

The finished product — now reward yourself with a cuppa. COURTESY ANDREA SADGROVE

DIY ideas. Using a simple paper template, you can create a handmade cup rest

As a child, artisan Andrea Sadgrove made tiny quilts from felt scraps for her toys. Her love of sewing developed into Liligo — a business making children's clothes from recycled and organic cottons.

For this week's DIY, Sadgrove shows Metro readers how to do the English paper-piercing method. She enjoys the portability of this quilting technique as it is done by hand.

Step 1: Cut out seven one-inch hexagon templates from paper (you can buy pre-made templates, or find some on the Internet). Using a ruler and pencil/chalk, cut seven fabric squares, each measuring 2.5 inches (you can make a template from cardboard, or buy these read-made from a quilting supply store or online).

Step 2: Pin a paper hexagon to the centre of each fabric square. Fold down the fabric as shown and baste around the entire hexagon, taking care to stitch through the fabric only, not the paper.

Step 3: Repeat with the remaining six hexagons and fabric. Stitch the hexagons together using a whipstitch or ladder stitch, again taking care to just sew through the fabric layers, not the paper.

Step 4: Press well. This is your coaster top. Using the coaster top as a guide, draw around it onto a piece of felt (this will become your backing). Remove the papers from inside the hexagons; you can reuse these for more coasters. Sew the backing to the quilt top, wrong sides together, using a coordinating thread so that stitches do not show.

NEED A HAND? COME MAKE THIS CRAFT WITH ANDREA SADGROVE AT THE ONE OF A KIND SPRING SHOW AND SALE, SATURDAY, 9-11 A.M. AT THE DIRECT ENERGY CENTRE, EXHIBITION PLACE

What you'll need:

- **Sewing stuff.** Scissors, pins, needle, thread
- **Assorted fabric scraps.** Each piece should be large enough to cut out a 2.5-inch square (seven squares in total)
- **Drawing tools.** Ruler and pencil/dressmaker's chalk
- **Felt.** It should be around a six-inch square for the back of the coaster. "I recommend 100 per cent wool felt as it doesn't shrink when washed, has a good feel to it and is environmentally friendly. You can use eco-felt if you wish, as it also doesn't shrink, but it's generally not as thick and is more shiny, so more slippery," says Sadgrove.

STEP 1 COURTESY ANDREA SADGROVE

Step 2 COURTESY ANDREA SADGROVE

Step 3 COURTESY ANDREA SADGROVE

Step 4 COURTESY ANDREA SADGROVE

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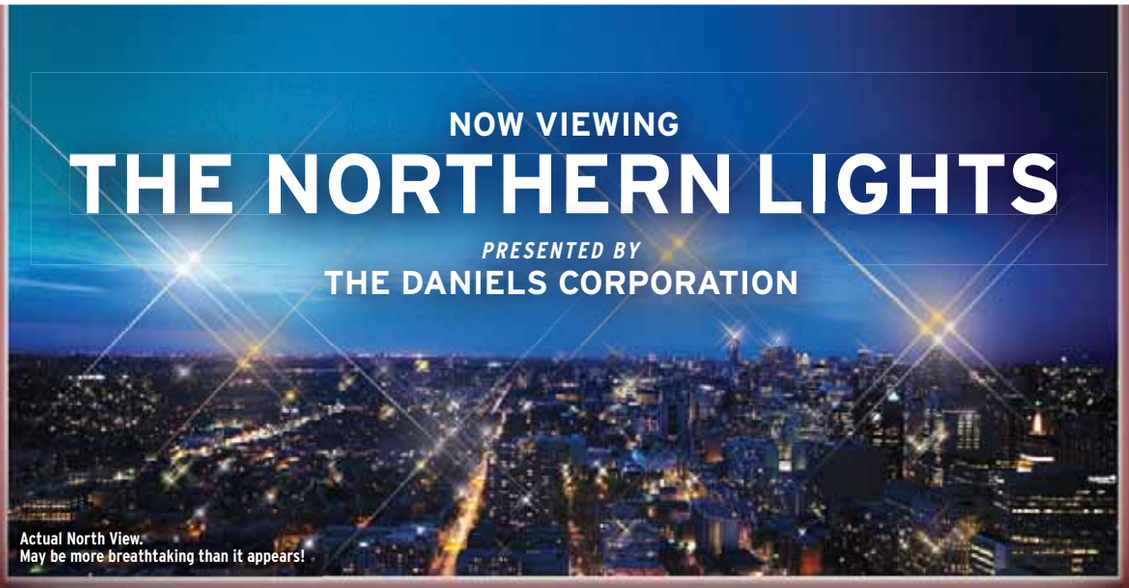

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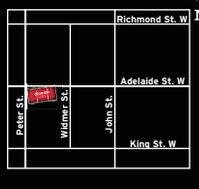

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Shake up your favourite comfort foods with new ingredients

Sweet Potato and Sausage Shepherd's Pie. This dish combines elements of the classic and some new tasty additions

Some people are adamant about keeping dishes like Shepherd's Pie traditional.

For those who are not, this version uses corn, a thick bed of mashed sweet potatoes, a sausage base and some lean ground beef for good measure.

The result is savoury and sweet in just the right balance.

Ingredients

- 2 sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into chunks
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) olive oil
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 yellow onion, diced
- 250 g (1/2 lb) loose Italian sausage meat
- 250 g (1/2 lb) lean ground beef
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) black pepper
- 175 ml (6 oz) stout or other dark beer (about half a bottle)
- 22 ml (1 1/2 tbsp) cornstarch
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) cool water
- 1 can (398 ml/14 oz) corn kernels, drained
- 1 small can (about 245 ml/8 1/4 oz) creamed corn
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) milk
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) butter
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) brown sugar
- Salt, to taste

1. Heat oven to 200 C (400 F). Lightly oil a standard loaf pan.

2. Place sweet potatoes in a large pot and add enough water to cover by 2.5 cm (1 inch). Bring to a boil and cook until tender, about 10 minutes. Meanwhile, in a large skillet over high, combine olive oil, garlic and onion. Sauté for 5 minutes or until just tender.

3. Add sausage, beef and pepper. Sauté until meat is browned and cooked through, about 8 minutes. Add beer and simmer until reduced by half, about 4 minutes.

4. In a small glass, mix cornstarch with cool water. Add cornstarch mixture to meat and stir until thickened. Remove from heat.

5. Spread meat and onion mixture evenly in loaf pan. In a small bowl, mix corn kernels and creamed corn, then spread in an even layer over meat. Set aside.

6. Once the sweet potatoes have cooked, drain and return them to the pot. Add the milk, butter and brown sugar, then mash potatoes until smooth. Season with salt.

7. Spoon the potatoes evenly over corn. Bake for 35 minutes or until the potatoes are lightly browned at the edges.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sweet Potato and Sausage Shepherd's Pie

This recipe serves six. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cookbook of the Week

The One Dish Collection

There's nothing quite like classic comfort dishes. That's why food director Annabelle Waugh and the test kitchen staff at Canadian Livings magazine have released The One Dish Collection (Transcontinental Books, $26.95).

The book contains 183 recipes with 80 illustrations that came from staff members who remembered their favourite meals as youngsters growing up.

The recipes are split into the chapters: soups, stews, hearty salads, casseroles, skillets and simmers, and pastas and risottos. THE CANADIAN PRESS

This recipe serves six. THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

The good old Ham & Cheese sandwich gets a bistro feel

Chef Melissa Craig of the Bearfoot Bistro in Whistler, B.C., created this delicious grilled cheese sandwich for a recent competition in Toronto.

1. Chop together tomatoes, olives, garlic and capers. Place in a bowl. Slowly add olive oil, stir in Parmesan and finish seasoning with fresh pepper. Set tapenade aside.

2. Preheat grill to low heat. Slice ciabatta bread straight across into round disks about 1 cm (1/2 inch) thick.

3. Assemble each sandwich with Swiss cheese, ham and arugula. Lightly brush both sides of bread with olive oil. Lightly grill each side of sandwich over very low heat. Remove from grill and place on plates with 5 ml (1 tsp) of tapenade on top. DAIRY FARMERS OF CANADA, DAIRYGOODNESS.CA/RECIPES/HAM-GRILLED-CHEESE/

EMILY RICHARDS (PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR, AND TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE VISIT, EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA)

Ingredients

- 1 rustic ciabatta bread
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) olive oil
- 250 g (8 oz) Swiss cheese
- 270 g (9 oz) smoked or Black Forest ham
- 1 bunch arugula leaves
- Cracked black pepper

Tapenade

- 60 g (2 oz) sun-dried tomatoes, soaked
- 30 g (1 oz) kalamata olives
- 1/2 clove garlic, chopped
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) capers
- 35 ml (25 ml/1/8 cup plus 10 ml/2 tsp) olive oil
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) Parmesan cheese

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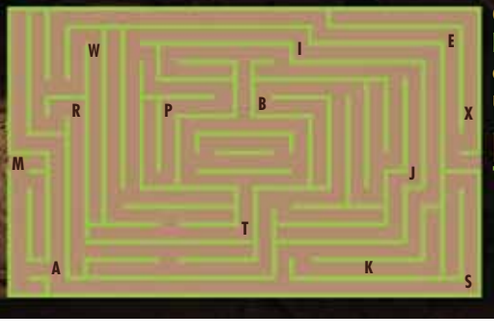

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4

SPORTS

Leafs preview

Philadelphia at Toronto
7 p.m.
(TSN)

The Maple Leafs (33-35-9) host Philadelphia (44-24-8), which lost 5-3 to Tampa Bay on Monday. Ilya Bryzgalov allowed four goals on 14 shots in the loss and will miss tonight's game because of a chip fracture in his right foot. Sergei Bobrovsky hasn't started since a 4-1 loss to New Jersey on March 11. Scott Hartnell leads the Flyers with a career-high 36 goals. Jaromir Jagr hasn't scored in his last 10 games. He has four assists in that span. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"We knew what his character was and what kind of guy he was going to be in the clubhouse. So that obviously came out the way it was expected. Omar just had a very good camp and he deserved to be on the team."

Toronto Blue Jays general manager Alex Anthopoulos on Omar Vizquel, who has played his way into another season in the majors. Boosted by an excellent showing in spring training, the backup infielder was added to the Blue Jays' roster Wednesday a month before his 45th birthday, making him the oldest active position player in the big leagues.

On the web

LeBron James has a dislocated finger but, despite doctors' wishes, will take the floor for the Heat as the Dallas Mavericks return to Miami for the first time since winning the NBA championship last June at American Airlines Arena. Scan the code for the story.

No hiding from ghost of '67

THE HOCKEY NEWS
Adam Proteau
toronto@metronews.ca

In the immediate hours after Toronto was eliminated from Stanley Cup contention Tuesday night, Brian Burke served as a human shield against pent-up fan anger and despair — and that's the way the Maple Leafs GM likes it.

Burke enjoys huffing and puffing and blowing down the homes of cynics and naysayers. He believes in the people he works with at the managerial level; he is, like a parent, prone to seeing the best in his players; and he has faith in the philosophy with which he won a Stanley Cup in Anaheim.

However, for all the things Burke can control, the one thing he can't is that mounting wave of customer disillusionment, and the corrosive effect the public's fury has on his roster. For example, thanks to the Leafs' utter meltdown in net, there is simply no way Burke can bring back both James Reimer and Jonas Gustavsson, even if Toronto's posse of assistant GMs unanimously thought it was the right thing to do. Taking them both into this season as Toronto's only real goaltending options was a sizeable gamble, and fans and media will be up in arms if Burke doubles down, so either one or both will have to play for another organization.

The pressure also will build on cornerstone defenceman Dion Phaneuf next season. Is that entirely fair? My first inclination is to say no, as Phaneuf has played his best hockey since he arrived in Toronto two years ago. But the reality is, as the Leafs' highest-salaried player (at $6.5 million per season) and captain, he will either have to do much more than put up 10 goals and 42 points, as he's done this year. He'll have to create more offence, or he'll have to notably tighten up his defensive game to suit coach Randy Carlyle's style.

Whatever the case, if the Buds don't win more, it won't matter either way. People will clamour for him to be traded before his contract runs out after the 2013-14 campaign ends.

Don't get me wrong — I don't think Burke should have his blueprint for success significantly altered by fan or media pressure. But as he must know by now, he has to at least acknowledge the beast he's taken on in Toronto and factor it into his choices of players and other team personnel. After all, he's admitted fans at the Air Canada Centre who chanted "Fire (Ron) Wilson" cemented his choice to let the head coach go.

Burke often says he won't be judged by the always-looming ghost of 1967, the last time Toronto won it all. But Burke can bluster all he wants. The ghost is for real, and its hauntings become scarier with each year that losing becomes more of the Leafs' hallmark.

Leafs sort through the wreckage

Randy Carlyle says the Toronto Maple Leafs are "embarrassed" to be missing the playoffs for a seventh straight season.

- The coach spoke to reporters a day after the team was eliminated from post-season contention.
- "It's a storied franchise and we feel that we're somewhat embarrassed by what has happened," said Carlyle. "And we should be." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto FC earns hard-fought draw to open Champions League semifinal

Toronto FC's Danny Koevermans, left, battles Santos Laguna's Santiago Hoyos, during a 1-1 draw Wednesday night at BMO Field. Toronto and Santos exchanged first-half goals in an ill-tempered match to open their CONCACAF Champions League semifinal. Toronto FC showed resolve against a skillful, high-scoring side that currently tops the Mexican league. But next week's second leg in Mexico could prove far more difficult, especially with an away goal in Santos Laguna's pocket. U.S. international Herculez Gomez had the Santos goal and Miguel Aceval responded on a free kick for Toronto. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

NBA. Bargnani joins 6,000-point club in Raptors' victory over Nuggets

Andrea Bargnani reached a milestone by scoring 26 points in the Toronto Raptors' 105-96 victory over the Denver Nuggets on Wednesday. Bargnani came in 13 points shy of 6,000 career points, and reached the milestone with a free throw late in the second quarter.

He is the fourth player score 6,000 in a Raptors uniform, joining Vince Carter, Chris Bosh and Morris Peterson. Bargnani had a stretch of 10 straight points in the fourth quarter as Toronto opened a seven-point lead.

DeMar DeRozan, who returned after missing two games with a left ankle injury, had 11 third-quarter points and finished with 17.

Jose Calderon finished with 10 assists and 10 points, to stretch his streak to four games with 10-plus assists. Calderon is third in the NBA with 18 games of 10 or more assists, trailing Steve Nash (31) and Rajon Rondo (25).

Denver scored 10 unanswered points early in the third to take their first lead of the game. Toronto responded with a late 8-3 run capped off by a Ben Uzoh lay-in to tie it at 85. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Andrea Bargnani
NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB. Ichiro still big in Japan as Mariners top A's

Ichiro Suzuki gave his fans in Japan a performance to cheer about.

Suzuki had four hits in his return home, Dustin Ackley homered and singled in the go-ahead run in the 11th inning, and the Seattle Mariners beat the Oakland Athletics 3-1 Wednesday night in baseball's season opener in Tokyo.

"It was very special to open in Japan," said Suzuki, who spent nine seasons in Osaka with the Orix Blue Wave. "I wanted to have fun and give the fans something at this special time and wanted to share a special moment with them."

The capacity crowd of 44,227 at Tokyo Dome gave Suzuki a standing ovation when he took his position in right field in the final inning.

MLB and the players' association are using the series to assist rebuilding in Japan following last year's earthquake and tsunami.

Seattle and Oakland complete their two-game series Thursday. The rest of the big-league teams start to get going April 4, when the renamed Miami Marlins open their new ballpark against the World Series champion St. Louis Cardinals. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

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d-Boston	76	45	28	1	2	249	186	93	23-13-1-1	22-15-0-1	5-5-0-0	W3
d-Florida	76	37	24	5	10	189	208	89	20-9-1-9	17-15-4-1	6-1-0-3	W1
x-Pittsburgh	76	47	23	3	3	256	200	100	27-9-2-0	20-14-1-3	7-2-1-0	L1
x-Philadelphia	76	44	24	2	6	241	213	96	21-12-1-4	23-12-1-2	6-3-0-1	L1
New Jersey	77	43	28	2	4	208	201	92	21-13-0-4	22-15-2-0	5-4-0-1	W1
Ottawa	77	39	28	6	4	236	227	88	20-15-2-2	19-13-4-2	5-3-0-2	W2
Buffalo	77	38	29	4	6	202	210	86	20-11-3-5	18-18-1-1	7-1-0-2	W5
Washington	77	38	31	4	4	206	219	84	24-11-2-2	14-20-2-2	5-3-1-1	L1
Winnipeg	77	35	34	4	4	207	227	78	23-13-1-3	12-21-3-1	3-7-0-0	L3
Tampa Bay	76	35	34	4	3	216	260	77	23-14-1-1	12-20-3-2	4-5-1-0	L1
Carolina	77	31	31	9	6	205	228	77	19-13-1-5	12-18-8-1	6-4-0-0	W1
NY Islanders	76	32	33	7	4	185	227	75	15-16-5-1	17-17-3-2	5-3-1-1	W2
Toronto	77	33	35	4	5	217	242	75	16-15-3-4	17-20-1-1	3-5-0-2	L2
Montreal	77	29	34	4	10	199	214	72	14-15-2-8	15-19-2-2	4-2-2-2	L2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
dx-St. Louis	77	48	20	1	8	199	147	105	30-4-1-3	18-16-0-5	6-2-0-2	W2
y-Vancouver	76	46	21	2	7	230	187	101	22-10-0-4	24-11-3-2	5-4-1-0	W3
d-San Jose	76	39	27	5	5	210	196	88	24-12-2-1	15-15-3-4	6-3-1-0	W3
x-Detroit	77	46	26	3	2	239	191	97	30-5-1-1	16-21-2-1	3-5-2-0	L1
Nashville	77	44	25	3	5	219	202	96	24-9-2-3	20-16-1-2	5-4-0-1	L1
Chicago	77	42	26	4	5	231	222	93	26-8-1-4	16-18-3-1	6-2-0-2	L2
Dallas	76	41	30	1	4	202	202	87	22-14-0-3	19-16-1-1	6-4-0-0	L1
Phoenix	77	37	27	3	10	200	202	87	19-13-2-4	18-14-1-6	4-2-0-4	L2
Los Angeles	76	37	27	5	7	175	165	86	21-14-0-4	16-13-5-3	6-4-0-0	L2
Colorado	78	40	32	4	2	201	207	86	22-15-1-1	18-17-3-1	5-3-1-1	L3
Calgary	77	35	27	6	9	191	212	85	21-10-1-5	14-17-5-4	5-1-2-2	W1
Anaheim	76	32	33	5	6	191	212	75	20-17-2-0	12-16-3-6	4-5-1-0	L1
Minnesota	76	31	35	2	8	161	210	72	17-16-1-3	14-19-1-5	3-7-0-0	L3
Edmonton	76	31	36	3	6	206	223	71	18-15-2-3	13-21-1-3	5-2-1-2	W2
Columbus	77	25	45	2	5	181	252	57	15-21-1-2	10-24-1-3	3-7-0-0	W1

x — clinched playoff berth; **d** — division leaders ranked 1-2-3 regardless of points; a team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OTL (overtime loss) or SL (shootout loss) column.

Last night's results
N.Y. Rangers 4 Winnipeg 2
Columbus 4 Detroit 2
Los Angeles at Calgary
Dallas at Edmonton
Colorado at Vancouver
San Jose at Anaheim
Tuesday's results
Carolina 3 Toronto 0
Florida 3 Montreal 2 (SO)
Boston 5 Tampa Bay 2
Buffalo 5 Washington 1
New Jersey 2 Chicago 1 (SO)
N.Y. Islanders 5 Pittsburgh 3
N.Y. Rangers 3 Minnesota 2
St. Louis 3 Nashville 0
Tonight's games
All Times Eastern
Washington at Boston, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Tampa Bay at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Pittsburgh at N.Y. Islanders, 7 p.m.
Florida at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
St. Louis at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
San Jose at Phoenix, 10 p.m.
Tomorrow's games
Winnipeg at Carolina, 7 p.m.
Florida at Columbus, 7 p.m.
Montreal at N.Y. Rangers, 7:30 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Buffalo, 7:30 p.m.
Nashville at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Colorado at Calgary, 9 p.m.
Los Angeles at Edmonton, 9:30 p.m.
Dallas at Vancouver, 10 p.m.
Saturday's games
Boston at N.Y. Islanders, 1 p.m.
Ottawa at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.
Buffalo at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Montreal at Washington, 7 p.m.
New Jersey at Caroline, 7 p.m.
Winnipeg at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.
Columbus at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Chicago at Nashville, 8 p.m.
Los Angeles at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Anaheim at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Calgary at Vancouver, 10 p.m.
Dallas at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.

RANGERS 4, JETS 2

First Period
No Scoring.
Penalties — Bickel NYR (holding) 10:24, McDonagh NYR (tripping) 10:41, Stralman NYR (delay of game) 14:20.
Second Period
1. Winnipeg, Machacek 2 (Maxwell, Stuart) 3:58
2. Winnipeg, Little 23 (Wheeler, Ladd) 4:54
3. N.Y. Rangers, Del Zotto 8 (Callahan) 7:44 (sh)
4. N.Y. Rangers, Callahan 28 (Gaborik, Del Zotto) 18:23 (pp)
Penalties — Boyle NYR (boarding) 0:27, Dubinsky NYR (slashing) 6:35, Kane Wpg (slashing) 8:19, Burmistrov Wpg (holding) 18:00, Ladd Wpg (double high-sticking) 18:53.
Third Period
5. N.Y. Rangers, Boyle 9 (Fedotenko, McDonagh) 3:07
6. N.Y. Rangers, Stepan 17 (Gaborik, Richards) 10:06 (pp)
Penalties — Bickel NYR, Glass Wpg (fighting) 5:56, Burmistrov Wpg (holding) 8:46.
Shots

N.Y. Rangers	4	15	9	28
Winnipeg	11	8	5	24

Goal — N.Y. Rangers: Lundqvist (W,37-16-5); Winnipeg: Pavelec (L,28-28-7). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — N.Y. Rangers: 2-5; Winnipeg: 0-5.
Referees — Gord Owyer, Brad Watson. **Linesmen** — Ryan Galloway, Brad Kovachik.
Attendance — 15,004 (15,004) at Winnipeg.

BLUE JACKETS 4, RED WINGS 2

First Period
1. Columbus, Prospal 14 (Nash) 6:26
2. Columbus, Dorsett 11 (Johansen) 14:17
3. Detroit, Zetterberg 22 (Datsyuk, Holmstrom) 16:23 (pp)
Penalties — Stuart Det (roughing) 8:10, Boll Clb (elbowing) 10:03, Lebda Clb (hooking) 16:05.
Second Period
4. Columbus, Brassard 14 (Nikitin, Umberger) 14:30
5. Columbus, Umberger 15 (Atkinson, Nikitin) 15:57
Penalties — Emmerton Det (high-sticking) 2:28, Hudler Det, Prospal Clb (roughing) 17:27, Dorsett Clb (goaltender interference) 19:01.
Third Period
6. Detroit, Kronwall 15 (Lidstrom, Datsyuk) 9:34 (pp)
Penalties — Quincey Det (boarding) 3:43, A.Johnson Clb (high-sticking) 8:31.
Shots

Detroit	5	8	18	31
Columbus	14	8	9	31

Goal — Detroit: Conklin (L,5-6-1); Columbus: York (W,1-1-0). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Detroit: 2-4; Columbus: 0-3.
Referees — Dean Morton, Don Van Massenhoven. **Linesmen** — Derek Nansen, Pierre Racicot.
Att. — 12,432 (18,144) at Columbus, Ohio.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	PT
Malkin, Pgh	46	53	99
Stamkos, TB	55	35	90
Giroux, Pha	27	59	86
Spezza, Ott	31	49	80
Neal, Pgh	37	41	78
Kessel, Tor	36	41	77
Kovalchuk, NJ	32	43	75
Tavares, NYI	31	44	75
Karlsson, Ott	19	56	75
Hossa, Chi	29	45	74
Eberle, Edm	32	41	73
H.Sedin, Vcr	13	60	73
Thornton, SJ	16	56	72
Ra.Whitney, Phx	23	48	71
Elias, NJ	25	45	70
St. Louis, TB	24	46	70
Gaborik, NYR	38	31	69
Pominville, Buf	29	39	68
Eriksson, Dal	26	42	68
E.Staal, Car	23	45	68
D.Sedin, Vcr	30	37	67
Lupul, Tor	25	42	67
Zetterberg, Det	21	45	66
Hartnell, Pha	36	29	65
Kopitar, LA	24	41	65
Parenteau, NYI	16	49	65

Not including last night's games

BASKETBALL

NCAA MEN'S TOURNAMENT

FINAL FOUR
At New Orleans
All Times Eastern
SEMIFINALS
Saturday's games
Kentucky (36-2) vs. Louisville (30-9), 6:09 p.m.
Ohio State (31-7) vs. Kansas (31-6), 8:49 p.m.
CHAMPIONSHIP
Monday, April 2
Kentucky-Louisville winner vs. Ohio State-Kansas winner, 9 p.m.

LACROSSE

NLL

WEEK 13
All Times Eastern
Tomorrow's game
Calgary at Minnesota, 8:30 p.m.
Saturday's games
Colorado at Rochester, 1:05 p.m.
Toronto at Buffalo, 7:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Edmonton, 9 p.m.
Washington at Calgary, 9 p.m.

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Chicago	41	11	.788	—
d-Miami	35	13	.729	4
Orlando	32	19	.627	8½
d-Philadelphia	28	22	.560	12
Indiana	29	20	.592	10½
Atlanta	30	22	.577	11
Boston	28	22	.560	12
New York	26	25	.510	14½
Milwaukee	23	27	.460	17
Detroit	18	32	.360	22
Cleveland	17	31	.354	22
Toronto	17	34	.333	23½
New Jersey	17	35	.327	24
Washington	11	38	.224	28½
Charlotte	7	41	.146	32

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Oklahoma City	38	12	.760	—
d-San Antonio	34	14	.708	3
d-L.A. Lakers	31	19	.620	7
L.A. Clippers	28	21	.571	9½
Dallas	29	22	.569	9½
Memphis	27	21	.563	10
Utah	27	24	.529	11½
Houston	27	24	.529	11½
Denver	27	24	.529	11½
Phoenix	25	25	.500	13
Minnesota	25	27	.481	14
Portland	23	27	.460	15
Golden State	20	28	.417	17
Sacramento	17	32	.347	20½
New Orleans	12	37	.245	25½

d-division leader **x**-clinched playoff spot
Last night's results
Detroit 87 Cleveland 75
Minnesota 88 Charlotte 83
Toronto 105 Denver 96
New York 108 Orlando 86
Chicago 98 Atlanta 77
Boston 94 Utah 82
New Jersey 100 Indiana 84
San Antonio at Sacramento
New Orleans at Golden State
Phoenix at L.A. Clippers
Tuesday's results
Philadelphia 103 Cleveland 85
Memphis 93 Minnesota 86
Milwaukee 108 Atlanta 101
Dallas 90 Houston 81
Oklahoma City 109 Portland 95
San Antonio 107 Phoenix 100
L.A. Lakers 104 Golden State 101
Tonight's games
All Times Eastern
Washington at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Dallas at Miami, 8 p.m.
New Orleans at Portland, 10 p.m.
Oklahoma City at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.
Tomorrow's games
Denver at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Miami at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Washington, 7 p.m.
New York at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Milwaukee at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.
Detroit at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Memphis at Houston, 8 p.m.
Boston at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Dallas at Orlando, 8 p.m.
Sacramento at Utah, 9 p.m.
New Jersey at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.
Portland at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

CALENDAR
April 26 — Regular season ends
April 27 — Rosters set for playoffs, 3 p.m. EDT
April 28 — Playoffs begin.
April 29 — Draft early entry eligibility deadline, 11:59 p.m. ET
May 30 — Draft lottery

MLB

SPRING TRAINING

AMERICAN LEAGUE

	W	L	Pct
Toronto	21	4	.840
Oakland	14	5	.737
Detroit	15	6	.714
Los Angeles	15	10	.600
Seattle	12	8	.600
New York	13	10	.565
Kansas City	14	11	.560
Minnesota	15	12	.556
Boston	12	10	.545
Baltimore	10	11	.476
Chicago	11	15	.423
Texas	8	16	.333
Tampa Bay	7	15	.318
Cleveland	6	17	.261

NATIONAL LEAGUE

	W	L	Pct
St. Louis	14	7	.667
San Diego	17	12	.586
San Francisco	15	11	.577
Colorado	14	11	.560
Los Angeles	12	10	.545
Houston	13	12	.520
Chicago	14	14	.500
Milwaukee	11	13	.458
Miami	9	11	.450
Philadelphia	11	14	.440
Cincinnati	11	16	.407
Arizona	10	15	.400
Atlanta	9	14	.391
Washington	8	14	.364
Pittsburgh	8	15	.348
New York	6	16	.273

NOTE: Split-squad games count in the standings; games against non-major league teams do not.
Yesterday's results
Toronto 9 Baltimore 3
St. Louis 9 Detroit 5
Minnesota 11 Philadelphia 7
Atlanta 5 N.Y. Yankees 5 (10 innings)
Houston 6 Miami 3
Washington 3 N.Y. Mets 2
Chicago Cubs 2 Cleveland 0
Cincinnati 5 L.A. Angels 4
Milwaukee 7 Arizona 1
San Francisco 4 L.A. Dodgers 1
San Diego 13 Chicago White Sox (ss) 2
Colorado 8 Chicago White Sox (ss) 5
Pittsburgh vs. Tampa Bay
Texas vs. Kansas City
Today's games
All Times Eastern
Tampa Bay vs. Philadelphia at Clearwater, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
Atlanta vs. Washington (ss) at Viera, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
St. Louis vs. Miami at Jupiter, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
Minnesota vs. Pittsburgh at Bradenton, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
Toronto vs. Boston at Fort Myers, Fla., 1:35 p.m.
Chicago Cubs vs. San Diego at Peoria, Ariz., 4:05 p.m.
Cincinnati vs. Milwaukee at Phoenix, 4:05 p.m.
Kansas City vs. L.A. Angels at Tempe, Ariz., 4:05 p.m.
Chicago White Sox vs. L.A. Dodgers at Glendale, Ariz., 4:05 p.m.
Colorado vs. Cleveland (ss) at Goodyear, Ariz., 4:05 p.m.
Cleveland (ss) vs. Arizona at Scottsdale, Ariz., 4:10 p.m.
Washington (ss) vs. Detroit at Lakeland, Fla., 6:05 p.m.
Houston vs. N.Y. Mets at Port St. Lucie, Fla., 6:10 p.m.
Baltimore vs. N.Y. Yankees at Tampa, Fla., 7:05 p.m.
San Francisco vs. Texas at Surprise, Ariz., 9:05 p.m.

SOCCER

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

QUARTER-FINALS
FIRST LEG
Yesterday's results
AC Milan (Italy) 0 Barcelona (Spain) 0
Marseille (France) 0 Bayern Munich (Germany) 2
Tuesday's results
Benfica (Portugal) 0 Chelsea (England) 1
APOEL Nicosia (Cyprus) 0 Real Madrid (Spain) 3
SECOND LEG
Tuesday, April 3
All Times Eastern
Barcelona vs. AC Milan, 2:45 p.m.
Bayern Munich vs. Marseille. 2:45 p.m.
Wednesday, April 4
Chelsea vs. Benfica, 2:45 p.m.
Real Madrid vs. APOEL Nicosia, 2:45 p.m.

CONCACAF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

SEMIFINALS
FIRST LEG
Last night's results
Toronto (Canada) 1 Santos Laguna (Mexico) 1
Monterrey (Mexico) vs. Pumas UNAM (Mexico)
SECOND LEG
Wednesday, April 4
All Times Eastern
Santos Laguna (Mexico) vs. Toronto (Canada), 8 p.m.
Pumas UNAM (Mexico)r vs. Monterrey (Mexico), 10 p.m.

SCOTLAND

PREMIER LEAGUE
Yesterday's result
Inverness 0 St. Johnstone 1

MLS
All Times Eastern
Tomorrow's game
FC Dallas at D.C. United, 7:30 p.m.

TENNIS

SONY ERICSSON OPEN
At Key Biscayne, Fla.
MEN
Singles — Quarter-finals
Andy Murray (4), Britain, def. Janko Tipsarevic (9), Serbia, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.
Doubles — Quarter-finals
Leander Paes, India, and Radek Stepanek (7), Czech Republic, def. David Marrero and Fernando Verdasco, Spain, 7-6 (6), 6-4.
Max Mirnyi, Belarus, and **Daniel Nestor (2), Canada**, def. Lukasz Kubot, Poland, and Janko Tipsarevic, Serbia, 6-1, 6-4.
WOMEN
Singles — Quarter-finals
Agnieszka Radwanska (5), Poland, def. Venus Williams, U.S., 6-4, 6-1.
Marion Bartoli (7), France, def. Victoria Azarenka (1), Belarus, 6-3, 6-3.
Doubles — Quarter-finals
Vania King, U.S., and Monica Niculescu, Romania, def. Anabel Medina Garrigues, Spain, and Flavia Pennetta, Italy, 7-5, 6-2.
Maria Kirilenko and Nadia Petrova, Russia, def. Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova, Russia, and Lucie Safarova, Czech Republic, 6-1, 7-6 (5).

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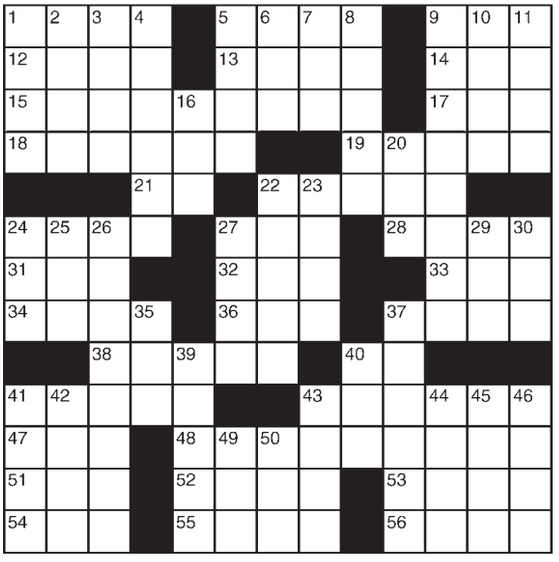
Crossword



Across

1 Big bash
5 Virtue's opposite
9 Flop
12 Japanese sashes
13 Exotic berry
14 Compass dir.
15 With-drawing from office
17 "Cool" amount of cash
18 Ranking
19 Part of Hispaniola
21 Morning hour on a sundial
22 "Psycho" setting
24 Hospital furnishings
27 Space
28 Organization
31 Anger
32 Sailor's assent
33 "I" strain?
34 Tournament component
36 Leno's network
37 Wan
38 Reflec-tion
40 Pacino or Yankovic
41 Tangy cuisine
43 Ape
47 Yoko of music
48 "Ghost" co-star
51 To the — degree
52 Author Hunter
53 Pronto, in the ER
54 Family
55 Look for
56 Highland hats

Down

1 Pantheon figures
2 Help in a crime
3 Peru's capital
4 Unchanged
5 Cisterns
6 Here (Fr.)
7 Has the skill set
8 Square dance group
9 Cecil B. and Agnes
10 One
11 Sandwich shop
16 Formal wear
20 NRC predecessor
22 Perhaps
23 Oil cartel
24 Humongous
25 Geological time
26 Wicker-covered bottle
27 Group of hoods
29 "Yecch!"
30 Lad
35 Big Aussie bird
37 Not quite
39 South American range
40 Intention
41 Hit on the head
42 Oppositionist
43 Kitchen fixture
44 Greek vowel
45 Composer Khachaturian
46 Profits
49 Previous night
50 West of Holly wood

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Yesterday's answer

O	P	U	S		S	E	E		A	B	I	T		
R	O	S	E		P	O	I		D	U	D	E		
B	U	S	T	L	I	N	G		I	S	L	E		
S	T	R	A	I	N		H	Y	P	H	E	N		
			T	R	A		T	O	O	N				
F	A	B		A	C	T		U	S	E	U	P		
O	V	U	M		H	O	P		E	L	K	A		
R	E	S	I	N		P	H	D		L	E	M		
		T	R	O	D		R	E	S					
S	P	A	R	S	E		A	M	E	L	I	A		
A	R	G	O		B	U	S	I	N	E	S	S		
F	O	U	R		U	T	E		O	D	I	E		
E	F	T	S		G	A	S		H	A	T	A		

Sudoku

	2		7		4	6	8	
					2			1
7						4		5
	7		9			1	3	
				8				
	8	9			6		4	
9		6						7
2			3					
	5	1	2		9		6	

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer

1	7	6	8	2	9	3	4	5
2	3	9	5	6	4	8	7	1
8	5	4	1	7	3	2	9	6
3	9	1	2	4	7	5	6	8
4	6	5	6	9	1	7	3	2
7	6	2	3	8	5	9	1	4
9	2	7	4	5	6	1	8	3
6	1	8	9	3	2	4	5	7
5	4	3	7	1	8	6	2	9

Send a kiss

- **a who.** I always thought love was about who can make you smile, who can make you laugh when you dont want to laugh, who can make you cry and who can make you do things for them you may not want to do at the moment. guessing i was wrong? jenny
- **Campbell Soup.** You must be used to me crying, you know my heart cant take no more i wont keep running back to you. thinking about my strength to finally get up and leave seems like i finally got my head on straight. cant wait to wake up everyday without you on my brain.. oh well proud to say i will never make that same mistake!! No Name Soup
- **Fall-apart-ers.** Here's to all the fall-a-parters, jesus loves you! Blessings for everyone! Never too late?
- **All lies.** Why didnt i listen to my heart when he had me guessing from the start, more and more i wonder why do i still want her after all the love i gave her but it wasnt mutual soo whatever then. And everytime the phone rings i wish it was your call, but that wont happen. From gullible

Today 7°/-1° Partly cloudy
Friday 5°/0° Rain or snow showers 40%
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Check your local listings for details. HD
TWN incorporates MSC data

Horoscope

Aries | March 21 - April 20. Someone you meet will tell you something that may not mean much to you now, but it could be used to your benefit later on.

Taurus | April 21 - May 21. You will talk your way out of trouble today but how did you get into this position in the first place?

Gemini | May 22 - June 20. You need to convince someone that you know what you are talking about and that you are serious about your aims.

Cancer | June 21 - July 22. You will have to do something you don't want to do, simply because someone else has the power to make you. Do it with a smile.

Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22. With the Sun, your ruler, at odds with Pluto today, chances are you will have to do a lot of explaining.

Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22. People who have an inflated sense of their own importance are often easy to influence and you can use that fact to your advantage today.

Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22. It appears that someone has a grudge against you and you don't have the faintest idea why. The only way to find out is to ask.

Scorpio | Oct. 23 - Nov. 21. Someone in authority will give you a hard time today and you may be tempted to hit back at him or her in some way. Don't!

Sagittarius | Nov. 22 - Dec. 21. Someone is jealous of the attention you have been getting and would like nothing better than to see you take a fall.

Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan 20. You don't have to exert yourself to any great extent today. You just have to persuade others to do things for you. Easy.

Aquarius | Jan. 21 - Feb 18. Don't give someone the impression that you agree with what they say when, secretly, you disagree.

Pisces | Feb. 19 - March 20. The whole idea of life is to try new things and that, inevitably, means making mistakes. Go out and make some more. SALLY BROMPTON

Caption Contest

"Ah, I think they're a size six and a half."
Tony

LIONEL CIRONNEAU/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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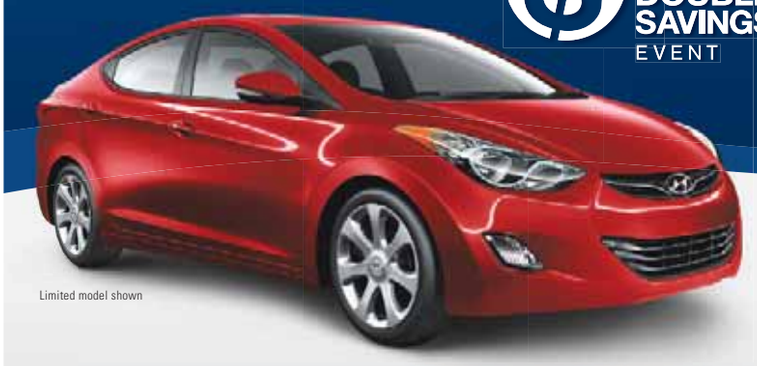

Limited model shown

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